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We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications : and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It appears there have been very serious anti-Japanese riots in San Francisco—violence, and death in the result. And of course there have been reprisals by the Japanese in the city. Without wishing to appear too virtuous in this matter of white men's anti-colour prejudice, we cannot find in the accounts—very vague as yet—of the original assaults on Japanese property any excuse for the assailants. They seem to have been without any provocation but the provocation of the Japanese skin. After enquiry the President thinks the affair has been exaggerated—naturally. The Japanese people, on their side, are bid by their serener papers to remember that in time past Japanese have attacked Americans—very admirable advice. No one doubts that the last thing either Government wants is friction. But democracy—seldom its own master—is the arbiter of peace and war. Both Governments know that they are riding storms that may at any time get beyond control.

Mr. Roosevelt, in his speech at Indianapolis on Thursday, made no reference to this matter. His remarks were a further warning to the Trusts that the United States Government means to break down monopoly when its operations become anti-national. "The rights of property", said the President, "can be preserved only if we remember that they are in less jeopardy from the socialist and the anarchist than from the predatory man of wealth." American railways are a notorious case in point. Their directors are free to raise money and conduct their business without regard to the public interests, and though Mr. Roosevelt is assured that the mass of American railway securities rests upon "safe and solid foundations" he is also convinced that the time has come for Federal

control. In other words American must be placed on much the same footing as English railways. "There must", he said, "be vested in the Federal Government a full power of supervision and control over the railways doing inter-State business—a power in many respects analogous to and as complete as that the Government exercises over the national banks." Such control would seem to be demanded by mere common-sense, and would no doubt do much to restore public confidence in American railway administration.

Meantime the President is engaged in quite a considerable encounter, not with Trusts and Tammany, but with a very angry naturalist. The American papers are full of accounts of this fight, and the "Daily Telegraph" correspondent in New York is even cabling the latest news to England. The naturalist—a Dr. Long—has, it seems, been accused by the President of painting the lily—of colouring the beasts and wild things of the United States too highly. Mr. Burroughs, who is a well-known writer in America, started the subject and Mr. Roosevelt has come to his aid. The attacked naturalist is very angry, and calls on Mr. Roosevelt to come and have it out in the open. He wants a debate, not a duel. It is a singular quarrel for a President of the United States to be involved in. Imagine a leader in public life here engaged in a hot quarrel with the author of a book on golf or bridge. Mr. Roosevelt, we should add, is keenly interested in natural history, and attaches great importance to its study. It is this which has led him into the quarrel.

The mail news from India shows that the disturbances have been treated by the leading Anglo-Indian newspapers with calmness and an entire absence of panic and exaggeration. The matter is reported and discussed as one of the incidents of the day—important, unusual, even anxious—but still an episode for which the public mind was prepared by the irresolute policy of the Government and by the encouragement given to agitators by the present Ministry and by the mischievous utterances of its supporters. A firmer and steadier administration is demanded. With it the disquiet will pass away and a rational policy of prevention will provide against its recurrence. The protestations

of loyalty by the most important classes of the natives and the request for a determined suppression of seditious propaganda show the unrepresentative character of the disloyal party. The money market was quite unaffected, and the disturbances are not even mentioned as affecting State or private securities.

Fuller information concerning the steps taken by the Imperial Government to protect the interests of his Majesty's Indian subjects in the Transvaal is necessary, if we are to be quite sure that the precautions against the introduction of Asiatics are reasonable. Lord Elgin has promised the papers in the matter for which Lord Ampthill moved on Wednesday. The haste with which the measure was rushed through by the Transvaal Parliament in the first few days of its existence was, as Lord Lansdowne said, almost indecent. When Lord Selborne and his colleagues proposed to pass an Ordinance, which was practically identical with the Act carried by the Botha Government, Lord Elgin saw fit to withhold his assent. If the measure was undesirable from the imperial point of view under Crown Colony conditions, how could it be more acceptable under self-government? If the influx of Asiatics is prejudicial and improper now, it was improper then. Nor is the registration by digital marks altogether what one would like. The desire to keep the Transvaal as far as possible a white man's country is intelligible, but must not be allowed to override the obligations of the Imperial Government to all the King's subjects, whatever their colour. Has Lord Elgin been fully alive to that essential fact?

Where Mr. Churchill is unable to express a dogmatic opinion, minds less infallible may well hesitate. The Rand strike with its various attendant issues he confesses is "the most complicated and curiously tangled matter" that he has ever had to handle. What the dispute is all about, what influences have been brought to bear on the miners, and whether the strike is fizzling out or developing there is really nothing to show. No doubt the despatch of British troops to Johannesburg ostensibly as a precaution against a Chinese outbreak has had its effect on the miners. Done on the advice of the responsible Government of the Colony, it cannot be denounced by the enemies of the magnates as it would have been if the act of the High Commissioner himself. The really serious fact is that the British miners on the Rand are being replaced. The Afrikaners' readiness to make up the depleted shifts supports the belief of men who should know that the trouble had its origin in political intrigue. If the British are superseded on the Rand and do not readily take to farming, the Dutch reversion of the Transvaal will soon be complete.

In Russia so much turns on the co-operation of the Constitutional Democrats in the Douma with the Government that their voting on Tuesday against the resolution denouncing terrorism seems at first sight ominous. It in fact renewed the rumours about a prompt dissolution. But they had already done quite enough to place themselves above suspicion by moving the resolution, as we noted last week, expressing joy at the escape of the Tsar from the plot against him. It was a stage in the growth of a better understanding between them and M. Stolypin; and precisely for this reason they could venture to vote against the motion on terrorism, which was superfluous and mischievous. The Right introduced it and the Socialists supported it: a combination indicating malicious intentions towards the Douma itself. Since M. Stolypin made his statement of the Government's agrarian proposals they have not been before the Douma. Here there is real danger, as the Constitutional Democratic majority, who favour compulsory expropriation, will be against the Government.

Austria's representatives in the new Reichsrath are all now elected with the exception of those from Galicia; and these will not affect the general result. The Social Democrats did not do as well in the second ballots as in the first; but they number eighty-three as against eleven in the last Reichsrath. The Christian

Socialists number now sixty-seven as against twenty-six, and with these are to be included the German Clericals, who have returned exactly their former number. This gives the Christian Socialists a majority of thirteen. There are many other groups, and it depends on them whether Christian or Democratic Socialists shall have a majority. The other Clerical groups, Czech, Slav, and Italian, have all increased their former numbers, whilst all the Liberal groups have diminished, but are still large enough in connection with the Socialists to balance the Clerical with the anti-Clerical parties. Of the special groups of the old Reichsrath the one that loses most is the Young Czechs, who are only nineteen instead of forty-seven; whilst the group that gains most is the Agrarians, the Germans rising from four to twenty-one, and the Czechs from five to twenty-five. A programme of practical social reforms seems indicated as the result of the elections.

The British journalists who are at present in Germany returning the visit of the German editors are being entertained with rather more of official hospitality than the Germans had here. But Sir F. Lascelles, the British Ambassador, who was present at the banquet in Berlin, dwelt strongly on the fact that the managers of the reception represent vast numbers of Germans as well as the Government, who desire the removal of misunderstandings and the growth of friendly relations between the two countries. Dr. Von Mühlberg, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, presented Germany's naval policy in much more subdued colours than those of the Navy League, as he naturally would do when dining with British journalists. Possibly these visits are educative and mollifying, and it may be not only in politeness that men like Sir F. Lascelles say they are. Perhaps they have hardly begun to tell yet; but scepticism will have some excuse if there is another such outbreak of newspaper polemics as there has been since the German editors were here.

Another batch of military appointments, besides those we noticed last week, has been announced. The most important is that of Sir William Nicholson to be chief of the General Staff. This we cordially welcome; no more suitable man could have been selected; and incidentally it will be a relief to the Army that General Douglas was not chosen, though we regret that so high an apostle of the worst side of the old "red tape" school has been given a year's extension of the Adjutantship-General. It will be remembered that Sir William Nicholson—then Director-General of Mobilisation and Intelligence—was one of the officials who were summarily dismissed from the War Office by the decree of the now discredited Esher Committee. Since then, however, this officer has returned to the War Office as Quartermaster-General, where he has played a waiting game, and never committed himself. Previously he had been regarded as a strong and combative person, and we were surprised when Mr. Haldane included him as one of the expert advisers who supported his policy of reduction.

When the military millennium was begun by the Esher Committee, we were told that only those who were absolutely fitted for command in the field would be appointed to high posts. How well all these ideals have been upheld is shown by some of the recent appointments to important posts of "society" General officers with influence behind them. We ask Mr. Haldane and the selection board whether they would select General Oliphant for high command in the field? They would not. Yet this officer is appointed to the Northern command. Again is General Paget—the hero by the way of one of Sir Charles Tucker's most celebrated "bons mots"—the best man for the Eastern command? Both have great influence; and under a Radical Government, this appears to be a more valuable asset than ever. Nor can we be enthusiastic about Lord Methuen's appointment to command the troops in South Africa.

Apparently Mr. Haldane does not mean the official account of the war in South Africa, begun by Colonel

G. F. R. Henderson, ever to see the light complete. After Colonel Henderson's death the Government decided to suppress the admirable volume he had just completed and entrusted the task of re-writing the account of the war to General Sir Frederick Maurice and a staff of officers. The first volume of this work appeared last year: it was well done. The second volume is now in the press and the third volume, we hear, is on the stocks. But we find that Mr. Haldane, in his zeal for "economy", has decided that on and after 31 August the work is to be transferred from Sir Frederick Maurice and his officers to another department. But as no more money is to be devoted to the work and no funds are available for the other department to carry it on, the history can never be finished. There will be no official history of the Boer war. Is not this a triumph of economy?

Mr. F. E. Smith's amendment to exclude the Militia from the operation of the Bill took up most of the army debate on Tuesday. The War Secretary rejected the proposal wholly, though the question no doubt will be discussed in more detail when the Bill reaches the Upper House. Some few points in the original Bill have been altered, some for better and some for worse. It is much to the good that Mr. Haldane has given way on the point of adjutants to the territorial army. Originally he intended to abolish the appointment of regular officers to these posts and appoint civilians instead. Clearly the idea was absurd; and we can only wonder that his expert advisers on the Army Council let him make so egregious a mistake. The other alteration is less satisfactory. This time Mr. Haldane has conceded a point to the anti-British enthusiasts who object to the use of the rifle being taught in elementary schools under the age of sixteen; this makes his "nation in arms" speeches ring somewhat hollow.

Sir Charles Dilke and others showed that the scheme will cost much more than Mr. Haldane anticipates; a point about which we have never had any doubt. With all the new light now thrown on the Bill, we still hold that the scheme is ludicrously unworkable without the aid of compulsion—as indeed every other military scheme must be. But as compulsion is not yet a fact, we should not be surprised if this scheme shared the fate of its two predecessors. Both the Brodrick and Arnold-Forster schemes got through Parliament, but did not get much further. Perhaps the Brodrick scheme is the best parallel, because the Arnold-Forster proposals came to an end through the resignation of the Unionist Government, although without it they would soon have collapsed. As is always the case with army schemes, the Brodrick scheme soon became unpopular, with the result that it was thrown over and Mr. Brodrick relegated to another sphere of activity, soon after the publication of the War Commission's report—with which of course he had nothing to do—and whilst the Unionist Government was still in office. Will history repeat itself?

Five to fifty acres without the cow describes well enough the new heroic plan of the Government for bringing the people back to the land. Mr. Harcourt explained his Bill in a pleasant way on Monday, and it was read a first time. The County Councils are to be the authorities to take the land—by force if it cannot be done by persuasion—and let it out in small farms to "the People". If the holding be under five acres, the Parish Council is to be the authority. But there is no trusting County Councils—they are notoriously Conservative in so many places—and therefore the Board of Agriculture will appoint commissioners to act if the councils do not move. Mr. Long, who always speaks with knowledge and sense on these subjects, gave a clear hint that compulsion will be resisted by the Opposition; and we think the chief fight in committee, if not on second reading, will be over this. With all Mr. Harcourt's fair words, the Bill is "punitive". One of the chief Liberal papers regards it as the greatest charter of liberty since the time of King John. But this paper is made up in London: they know better in the country.

There is some movement in favour of small farms among Conservatives as well as Liberals, and it seems a pity that the case for them should be prejudiced by rash statements that large farms are everywhere a failure. Complaints have reached us that the case for small holdings in the East Riding of Yorkshire, for instance, has been much overstated lately. A correspondent writes: "If all Mr. Haggard's enquiries are conducted as was his late rapid survey in a motor-car of the broad lands and cultivated fields of the Yorkshire Wolds, it is not surprising that his conclusions come as a surprise to those whose acquaintance with the true condition of agriculture in England is more intimate than his own. Mr. Haggard summed up his judgment upon the Wolds of Yorkshire thus: 'Agriculture on the Wolds is not dying, it is already dead.'"

"During Mr. Haggard's exploration of East Yorkshire he did not meet any of its landed proprietors with the exception of Mr. Strickland Constable. He did not interview the agents of the Earl of Londesborough or Sir Tatton Sykes, nor consult Lord Middleton, who is one of the greatest English authorities on agriculture. The three gentlemen in question own at least 100,000 acres between them in this district. Of all the numerous tenant farmers who cultivate large areas of land in the East Riding, Mr. Haggard only visited two eccentric wealthy old brethren, who are notorious on account of the lugubrious prophecies they constantly utter as to the imminent downfall of the farming industry. In sober truth the Yorkshire Wolds, which remained in a practically uncultivated condition from the dissolution of the monasteries, until they were reclaimed, planted, and fenced in the eighteenth century, are now exceedingly prosperous, and the villages scattered over the country contain as many inhabitants, if not more than they have ever done in the past."

The Government really is very strong, numerically, on the agricultural side. Besides Mr. Harcourt, Mr. T. W. Russell, Lord Crewe, and Lord Portsmouth, it has found a promising recruit in Mr. Churchill. Mr. Churchill has been writing to the "Times" on pigs and poultry. Now that the Prime Ministers have left, he finds the sphere of the Colonial Office too restricted for his energy. He addressed his letter from Thame Camp—a gentle reminder that whilst others are talking of military service, he is engaging in it. And we must say that Mr. Churchill's knowledge of the farming system in Denmark is remarkable. Fancy—"in pigs, the British farmer is hopelessly outdistanced by the Dane"! The Mark Lane writers could not do it better. But we are not quite so sure of his facts as he is himself of his figures. Dairy produce, pigs and vegetables are profitable on small farms in this country, he assures his readers. On some they are productive no doubt; and there are countless cases where the English farmer has been broken and sold up by putting his capital into these ventures.

A cave of Liberals discontented with the Government seems to be forming in the Upper House. Lord Rosebery sits brooding there, now Lord Ribblesdale has joined him. Lord Ribblesdale has flung up the whipship of his party in the Lords, as he does not like the way the Government threaten that House. He believes that, should occasion arise, the House will know how to defend itself—an interesting addition to his "Confessions". It seems to us that the point is rather this—the Government does not know how to attack it. We do not affect to believe that Lord Ribblesdale's withdrawal is—to use a pet phrase just now—"a staggering blow" to the Liberal party. If they can survive the withdrawal of their great Irish Bill, they will survive the withdrawal of Lord Ribblesdale also. But it cannot be quite agreeable to the moderate and statesmanlike members of the party to find men of distinction, in intellect and character, growing chilly; among these Lord Ribblesdale counts.

Ministers really should put some curb on their tempers, when they differ in opinion from the press. One day the proprietor of a daily paper is scoffed at by a Minister as "a person", and then next a writer

on another daily paper is called a liar. A yellow press is at least matched by an atrabilious Ministry. Mr. Robertson, the Secretary to the Admiralty, is the latest sinner in this matter. Happily there are two or three Ministers who make a golden rule of never squabbling with the press. The great party leaders have rarely or never done so. Moreover it commonly argues a bad case. There is now for instance no real doubt that if the "Daily Mail" presented Sir Robert Bond somewhat coloured, the Government précis presented him very plain.

The letter of the Local Government Board to the West Ham Guardians deals with one subject in particular which is talked of often in small towns and rural districts. Rightly or wrongly the letter traces much of the mismanagement at West Ham to the late clerk holding so many offices that "it was impossible for him to secure an effective control". He was clerk or solicitor to ten public bodies. In the country districts pluralism is not seen on such an extensive scale as this, and there is more excuse for what there is than in a town like London. In the country suitable men may be scarce, and joining several offices may sometimes be more economical; and yet it is often overdone. In London, where a board like the West Ham Guardians can afford a salary of £600 to its clerk, it is certainly overdoing it to appoint one who is already town clerk at £950, is clerk to another board at £500, and holds seven other posts, besides carrying on a private practice.

The gist of the answer given by the Attorney-General to a question in the House of Commons as to the business in the Courts was, that if an additional judge were appointed and there were two special commissioners instead of one—that is practically three more judges than we have now—the cases entered up to the middle of May might be decided by August. If a case were ready to be tried now it would go over the Long Vacation and be at least six months before it was reached. But the additional judge is not yet appointed. The Lord Chancellor is only engaged on its consideration—its favourable consideration, the Attorney-General ventured to say. The facts speak for themselves, the Lord Chief Justice has pressed for more judges, lawyers are agreed about it: but the Lord Chancellor has not made up his mind to do more than appoint a committee to consider the subject.

We are glad to learn through Lord Curzon's letter in the "Times" that money is coming in towards the Clive Memorial; and we can hardly think that his appeal to the bulk of the India Civil servants to subscribe even their mite apiece will fall on a deaf ear. Because Clive thought and wrought so hard for India they hold their present offices. They have the chance to-day to pay a little of the debt they owe to this "great unhappy hero". But apart from almost personal obligation, all who care for India and the Empire would wish to pay some homage to a supreme Englishman. How many of us are there to-day who could not truthfully say with Clive's comrade?—

"In my eyes, your eyes, all the world's eyes Clive was man,
I was, am, and ever shall be—mouse."

The pathetic, even the tragic side, too often illustrated, of the profession so called of journalism is thrown into vivid relief by the death of Mr. Byron Curtis, so well known as of the "Standard." A couple of years ago he was one of Fleet Street's familiar figures. Except to those who came in contact with him in the office and realised that he really was editor, his kindly unpretentious personality would have suggested that he was anything rather than one of the leading journalists of London. His real bent was organisation, not the decision of great questions of policy. He made a fatal mistake in committing the "Standard" to Free Trade as against Tariff Reform. Mr. Curtis felt giving up the reins more keenly than the world knew. Pneumonia was too much for a constitution undermined by that mourning of "a mischief past and gone", which "is the next best way to bring new mischief on".

MR. HARCOURT'S SMALL HOLDER.

THOUGH ordinarily Mr. Harcourt, like Mr. "Bobby" Spencer, is scarcely a figure we should associate with the soil, he is in a way fitted to bring in a Land Reform Bill. He is fitted, for one thing, through heredity. We are not sure Sir William Harcourt will not go down to political fame as much through the Hares and Rabbits Act as through death duties. That Mr. Harcourt is, rightly, sensitive about his father's fame as doughty champion of the farmer against rich, wicked landowners is clear through a little touch in his speech of Monday on the Small Holdings Bill. "We have decided that the class which we aim at creating is that of occupying, cultivating tenants, but tenants of a public authority; and, by the very terms of their tenancy, deriving the sufficient security of their tenure which arises or accrues from the absence of the caprice of treatment which is sometimes associated with the action of individual landlords." The end of this statement almost italicises itself; and it was managed so adroitly by Mr. Harcourt that the Opposition instantly saw the point and gave him the laughter and the cries of "Portsmouth, Portsmouth" that, we imagine, he wished for. Mr. Harcourt has thus avenged the flouting of his father's favourite Act. Whether, doing so, he has shown himself a loyal colleague is another thing, which his own conscience must decide about. Mr. Harcourt is a good hand at exposition as at a pleasant personality, and he made the outlines of the Government Bill quite clear in a speech short, bright and marked by some sensible sayings about rural depopulation, on which the town theorist persists in talking and writing such solemn nonsense. Mr. Harcourt admits that he does not expect his proposals will fill the countryside once again with the class which went off to the town because it found life there more exciting. This wisdom may not be profound. And yet it is positively uncommon among authorities on this question. So many people, sensible enough in other matters, grow foolish, from some cause or other, when they express an opinion on the "rural exodus" and the way in which the congested life of the towns may be relieved. They appear to think "one of the gravest evils of the day"—as they love to describe it—could easily be cured by quack medicines. Offer the man who is off to the town a pig, or a bit of soil which he can till with his own hand; or build him a one hundred and fifty pound cottage on some garden city model, and he will settle on the soil, and he will live happily ever afterwards.

That is the notion. A very good notion it would be, were it not for the fact that our yokel friend is off to the town because he is tired of bacon and cow, and above all because he hates working on the soil—which after all is not quite so delightful in ordinary English weather as armchair agriculturists suppose. Mr. Harcourt, we are glad to notice, has no foolish delusions in this matter. He does not boast that he is going once more to make of every played-out Auburn the happiest village of the plain. What he hopes to do is to increase considerably the number of countrymen with holdings varying between five and fifty acres. Let there be no mistake about this—the Conservative party (like Mr. Harcourt) would very much like to see this done. Lord Lansdowne in his important speech on Thursday made this clear: he showed too that landowners have not opposed genuine demands for such holdings. We have had a good many years' acquaintance with small farmers in a part of England where they have increased somewhat of recent years. Those among them who succeed are a remarkable class, keen, hard-bitten men. They are great workers themselves, and—Labour Members of course note this—they have a way of making their men (as well as their horses) work hard too. They are rare hands at a bargain. You cannot tell them anything about thrift that they do not know. Not very lovable qualities these of the small holder perhaps. But he is not all flint. He is usually a good neighbour and something of a patriot; he is a moderate drinker; he brings up his children well, and manages often to give them a fair push in life.

If we were to add that the small holder as a rule votes true blue—where his one or two farm hands vote red—our motive in praising the class might be misunderstood. But, however he votes, he doubtless is a valuable asset for the country.

We all can agree then that the small holder is good. But where opinions differ is as to how he can be increased on the land. It seems to be thought by many armchair agriculturists that the happy small holder is the simplest thing on earth to produce. You need not even breed from existing stock. You pass an Act of Parliament empowering the local authority to take land—by force if necessary—from the great, greedy landowners who have mismanaged it so shockingly (and who originally stole it from the People) and the thing is as good as done. The happy small holder springs up spontaneously—as did the public buildings in the thriving American city of Eden. No more Danish butter; no more shabby eggs from France—they will be laid at home.

Now we fancy that some such idea as this possesses those who bring in and those who loudly cheer the new Bill. In it the blessed local authority once more appears; in it the blessed word compulsion once more appears. In the case of the holdings being under five acres—allotments—the local authority is the Parish Council. We suppose Mr. Harcourt has not overlooked the fact that in some parishes there happens to be no council; it has not sat for years, since the villagers ceased to take the faintest interest or the least part in its proceedings; since, in fact, they found that it did not give them any money or help them to get hold of the rabbits. In the case of holdings of five acres and over, the County Council is to be the authority. If slow to act, it is to be nicely gingered. The Board of Agriculture is to appoint commissioners, who are to arrange all about the small holdings, and to send in their bill of expenses to the County Council. The County Council is to be landlord itself. The land it takes is to be let out to those who are ambitious to set up as little farmers; but it is not to sell an acre. Who would not be a small holder under a local authority? Fancy the handsome abatements of rent the small holder will get in hard times! No more brutal, grinding Tory landlords in future. Farming will be a joy henceforth under the mild overlordship of gingered or ungingered county councildom. And not a doubt the downtrodden farm labourer will somehow or other rise to prosperity with his rising master. We suppose the National Liberal Federation Publication Department is busy preparing the leaflets showing the good things this Bill must bring to master and to man. Feudalism is surely near its last gasp, and back to the land at length we shall all be turning.

That is one view to take of Mr. Harcourt's Bill, a view which commends itself, no doubt, to our agricultural friends and enthusiasts of Bouverie and Stoncutter Streets and of the offices of the National Liberal Federation. And to them, we daresay, the Bill is a double boon; for, making the small holder—the small holder of art, as Lord Rosebery would describe him—it may do something at least towards unmaking the landowner. May not a council threatened with a stiff application of ginger take even some of the best land near the village, turn it into small holdings, and by-and-by return it to him plus a beautiful crop of couch grass? But there is another side after all to the picture which even Radicals will not think an agreeable one. Suppose the local authority turned landlord finds its holdings filling up too often with softs and incompetents, who make a dreadful mess of the land. Is it to accept any adventurer who, unable to make a living by other means, resolves to try farming? Or will it pick and choose its tenants as the present landowner has the power to do? If it helps only the skilled and competent to plant themselves on the land, how is it to plant the masses to any extent on the soil? No person who really has knowledge of village life will pretend that the masses in England to-day are qualified to make farming pay. Only the few, the very few, are qualified—even given a bit of capital to start with and a bit more for reserve, the "equipment" in fact which this Bill tells us so little about. Farming, small or large, is a very hard, a very risky business to-day in England, with the markets

cramped with cheap produce from abroad. The leaders on the Liberal press will not understand this. The mass of the people they want to settle are about as qualified to become successful farmers as to become successful journalists on the London press. Indeed it is probably easier to make a living out of articles than to make a living out of land.

THE CLOUD OUT OF THE PACIFIC.

THE anti-Japanese riots in San Francisco—attacks and reprisals—seem to have made a serious impression on Japanese public opinion. President Roosevelt has evidently not succeeded in convincing the Japanese of his ability to deal satisfactorily with the grave problems at issue, no matter how sure they may be of the sincerity of his intentions. And it is quite idle to blink the gravity of the whole situation. The significance of the position is that these events are not merely sporadic, merely local phenomena; they are symptoms of the underlying sentiment of the American people generally, and emphatically of the people of the western seaboard. Race sentiment is more intense in the United States than elsewhere on the American Continent, and it plays a part in the daily life of the people which cannot be readily understood by Englishmen in England or by Europeans in general. Throughout the Union the negroes are looked upon as an inferior race; but the feeling is far stronger in the South than in the North; the equality before the law recognised for the negro since the War of Secession has not given him anything akin to social equality. In the North, where the black population is comparatively scarce, people are more indifferent, whilst in the South the race question becomes one of passion and hatred on the slightest provocation. A similar feeling of antipathy, and it might be said of contempt, obtains in the American mind towards all men of a darker hue, even if they should happen to belong to the Caucasian race. Italians, Mexicans, and Spaniards are contemptuously called "greasers" and "dagoes". As to the people of yellow skin, the Americans, in common with some Europeans, make no distinction between Japanese and Chinese, which the Japanese do not seem to like.

The Chinese were a great factor in the early days of the settlement of California, when they were largely employed in the construction of railways and in the performance of all sorts of hard work. When this had been carried out, the American settlers found in the Chinese a formidable competitor and the rivalry became so acute that it brought about the expulsion of the Chinese from the territory of the United States. The Japanese have not been excluded, and their ability to compete with the Americans has made them as unwelcome as were the Chinese in their day, so that the demand for their expulsion from the territory of the Union springs from the same motives which ultimately crystallised some years ago in the anti-Chinese laws passed by Congress.

While Japan appeared a practically helpless nation, she might be bullied like China; but events have changed all that. Japan, as we all know, is now one of the first Powers of the world. Her navy is superior to that of the United States, and Japan certainly could land a large army on the American western seaboard. A Japanese invasion would be a serious matter enough, even for the United States with its vast and doubtless patriotic population, since trained soldiers, not to speak of Generals, cannot be created on a day's notice, nor by Act of Congress. The course of the American Civil War from the battle of Bull Run to that of Gettysburg shows how long it takes to turn the best raw material into regular and disciplined troops. Then the United States have, outside of their own territory, important possessions lying practically at the mercy of the Japanese in case of war. Hawaii and the Philippines could not be held by the Americans for more than a few days. In Hawaii peaceful invasion by the Japanese has been going on steadily during the past few years, and in both Hawaii and the Philippines the native inhabitants, though not of the same race as the Japanese, are far less

antipathetic to them than are the Americans, whose demeanour to the yellow people is always one of arrogant superiority.

All these facts, evident on the most superficial analysis of the existing conditions, intensify the gravity of the growing friction between Japan and the United States, which has already begun to alarm those who are in the best position to judge of the trend of coming events. Even the "Times" correspondent in New York, who is not apt to be pessimistic and would always see things in the light most favourable to America and the Americans, is beginning to think that things look ugly. The big stick, flourished with such gusto by Mr. Roosevelt in his dealings with the Latin-American Republics, will not do for Japan. The strong-man pose will not always serve. Mr. Roosevelt is beginning to learn that if he need not be all things to all men, he cannot be the same to all. For Latin-America—a conglomeration of nations not united amongst themselves, comparatively powerless individually, without armies or navies—menace and coercion; for Japan the soft word, the insinuating manner. Mr. Roosevelt realises, if some of his fellow-citizens—we were going to say, subjects—do not, that in trifling with this question America would be playing with fire.

The prevailing feeling in Latin-America towards Japan is one of friendship and of sympathy. The Japanese are showing themselves eager to enter into closer relations with the various nations of Latin-America, whose policy, in direct contradiction to the American policy, is one of the open-door in matters of Japanese immigration. Mexico grants all sorts of facilities for the importation of Japanese labour, and, through its Legation at Tokio, is known to be seeking the establishment and development of commercial relations with the Japanese empire; the example of Mexico is being followed by several other Latin-American States. The Japanese, as labourers, will be welcomed all over Latin-America in the coffee and sugar plantations, in the mines, and in the construction of public works. Japan is to-day a considerable consumer of South-American raw products, and many of the Japanese manufactured articles may compete with those of European or American production in the markets of Latin-America. Up to the present the trade between Japan and South America has been carried by an indirect route, the goods being shipped to European ports, London, Hamburg, or Antwerp, where they are re-shipped to their destination. Japanese agents have been making arrangements for a direct line of steamers from Buenos Ayres to Japan by way of Cape Horn, which would touch at all the important ports of the west coast of South America, and it is also expected that a direct line may be established from Salina Cruz, the terminus of the Tehuantepec Isthmian railroad, to Japan; this railroad is a most formidable rival to the Panama Canal, and by the time the canal may be opened to traffic, within ten or twelve years—taking the most optimistic view—the Tehuantepec Railway, now working, will have made for itself a current of trade and established interests of vast magnitude.

There is another element of no small importance in the sympathy of the Latin-American nations with Japan. In Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia a very large part of the population, varying in the different Republics in the proportion to the whole, are Indians, of whom a great number appear to be of identical ethnic origin with the Japanese. At first sight they might be taken for one another. This similarity may be, as many believe, the outcome of a Japanese invasion of America at a very remote period, of which traces seem to be found in a few scattered ancient monuments of a Buddhist type of construction. It will surely make for facility of assimilation, for the difference of language is an obstacle overcome in a few years. Perhaps, amongst the surprises of the future, there may lie the development of a widespread Japanese influence on the Latin-American continent, based on unsuspected ethnic grounds, which may terribly upset that "manifest destiny" of supremacy over the American continent which the statesmen of the United States have been proclaiming since the early days of the Republic, and which finds its latest expression in that most elastic of

theories, usually known as the Monroe Doctrine, available at will to meet all contingencies and requirements of international complications on the American continent.

MR. BIRRELL.

GREATLY to fail and to fail greatly are idiomatic phrases with a difference of meaning which a foreigner might have some difficulty in seeing, though it is quite clear to the Englishman. Mr. Birrell has failed greatly, and there is no greatness in his failures. Compare his failure over the Irish Devolution fiasco with Mr. Gladstone's failure to carry Home Rule. Mr. Gladstone fell like Hector before Troy; Mr. Birrell has fallen like Dolon when he was captured by Odysseus and Diomedes trying to enter the Achaian lines. 'Tis not in mortals to command success; but even so a man must do something more than fail, and as Mr. Birrell has done nothing else the world has not time and patience to waste on trying to discover the alleged but imperceptible virtues which entitle him to success. Success after all depends a good deal on a man knowing his way about, and when he has shown he does not know so much he becomes of no account for practical purposes. An able, shrewd and experienced politician would have had nothing to do with the treacherous honour put upon him of responsibility for two such measures as the Education Bill and the Irish Devolution Bill. This Joseph of the Cabinet has been imposed on by his elder brethren, and they have sold him to the Egyptians. Joseph was a raw youth who saw visions and dreamed dreams, as Mr. Birrell does, and he found himself at the bottom of a well—or colloquially in a hole, as Mr. Birrell is. But he did not remain there, as Mr. Birrell will.

It might have been expected. Who was Mr. Birrell to undertake and achieve great feats, political or otherwise? How had he trained for them? As Mr. Justice Darling trained for the Bench by writing "Scintillæ Juris" and "Meditations in the Tea Room" so Mr. Birrell trained for politics by nothing more than writing "Obiter Dicta"; the light and ephemeral effusions of a mind with nothing better to engage it than literary trifles. Mr. Birrell makes the fourth of a group of lawyers in the Cabinet, himself, the Lord Chancellor, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Haldane. With the exception of Mr. Birrell they had all been successful and were well known both professionally and in politics. Even the Lord Chancellor, who might be supposed to be specially distinguished in his profession, became better known as a politician than as a lawyer. Mr. Asquith, successful at the Bar up to a certain point, failed there to do what he might have done if politics had not so much engrossed him. Mr. Haldane alone had a greater name as a lawyer than as a politician, but he was known to be as astute and wily a politician as he had been an advocate. Mr. Birrell was practising at the Bar, and he was in Parliament. He carried the "Obiter Dicta" manner and matter with him wherever he went; but they told nowhere except between the covers of a little book or the light pages of a magazine. Mr. Birrell's distinction lay in his being the cultured representative of the mild agnosticism of nonconformity. He was the golden link with the Liberals who were, politically, attendant on nonconformity, but who did not attend or had ceased attendance at the chapel. He still kept up a Platonic connexion with it; and if he had had more virile qualities, there would have been a great career open to him. He had a great asset in this relation of his to nonconformity, but he squandered it recklessly when his "elder brethren" of the Cabinet persuaded him to connect himself with an Education Bill which disappointed nonconformity and outraged the Church. The same story we fancy has been repeated in the case of the Irish Devolution Bill.

Up to the time of his admission to the Cabinet, apparently due to the intended exploitation of his nonconformist connexion, Mr. Birrell's dilettante parliamentary experience, and his censorship of the National Liberal Federation's literature, had been his only education in politics. It was too exiguous. He was not strong:

enough then to face the men who at the Bar could have twisted him round their fingers. But in the interval one might suppose he would have learned something and become stronger. That was not so, as the story of the Irish Devolution Bill shows. He might have learned enough to know that compromises meant to reconcile the irreconcilable are hopeless. Who could think that a man who had so recently gone through what Mr. Birrell did in piloting the Education Bill would allow himself to be so fooled a second time? Mr. Birrell is a Home Ruler, and so is Mr. Morley. Would any man or any Cabinet have persuaded Mr. Morley to become personally responsible for the Irish Devolution Bill? It is a fine thing no doubt to be the most conspicuous figure in two successive sessions of Parliament, very gratifying indeed for a lawyer who had been so long inconspicuous professionally and politically. But to be doomed to the distinction of a pillory—a conspicuous position, certainly, but inglorious! Surely his colleagues owe him some reparation. They have fulfilled their pledges and may be complacent over that alleged fact. But what has Mr. Birrell fulfilled, unless it be the unhappy destiny of being led by the nose? They may, however, have some further use for Mr. Birrell. There may be other sessions in which they are proposing some other futile fulfilment of pledges, and it may be convenient to keep Mr. Birrell ready. Old-age pensions would be another good opportunity for making him once more conspicuous. As Mr. Birrell can be moved with so much facility from one incongruous office to another still more incongruous, he might, just for the sake of saving Mr. Asquith's reputation, be made pro tem. Chancellor of the Exchequer. We are assuming, of course, that an Old-age Pensions Bill would be in the department of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who has already taken such a very important step in anticipation. But if a Bill of this sort would more naturally fall to the President of the Local Government Board, it would then be Mr. Burns' reputation that would have to be kept untarnished, and Mr. Birrell might pass to that Board with some increase of salary as a solatium for his next discomfiture. These are details. The substantial point is that Mr. Birrell is always there to save the face of any Minister who happens, as Mr. Bryce, for instance, in Ireland, to be wanting some victim to take his place. This is Mr. Birrell's rôle in politics.

If his unfortunate vicarious career is at an end, surely his colleagues who made Mr. Bryce an ambassador will see to it that Mr. Birrell has before long some position of dignity as a set-off to the undignified positions in which they have so often remorselessly placed him. The suggestion has been made that when the Government appoint those two additional judges, as it is said they are going to do, Mr. Birrell should be offered the chance of being one of them. But this ought to be done speedily for fear Mr. Birrell may forget his law, which was probably getting very rusty while he was drifting between Scylla and Charybdis in politics, where he twice came to grief. Unfortunately there is not much hope of the Government appointing the two additional judges. Yet Mr. Birrell's case is pressing, and it would be very fortunate if some judge would retire at this critical moment when Mr. Birrell is, as we might say, *functus officio* and is likely to be *privatus homo*. Lord Coleridge we know has claims, but as between two political failures it must be admitted that Mr. Birrell should have the preference. If the House of Lords were reformed and Mr. Birrell were made a representative peer of nonconformity this would be a situation harmonising beautifully with the rest of his public career. But life is not a harmony, as Mr. Birrell knows; and the alternative of a judgeship is not to be despised. The Bench has been rather lacking in literature for some time; and the two *Dioskouroi* of "Obiter Dicta" and "Meditations in the Tea Room" would make it shine quite passably bright again. We only hope Mr. Justice Darling would not irritate Mr. Justice Birrell too much by pointing out how unnecessary it was for him to fail so greatly in politics and suffer so much in order to arrive at the Bench. It would be quite in Mr. Justice Darling's manner to tell him that he ought to have economised himself. This would

be very annoying; but after all we cannot think of anything better left for Mr. Birrell to do than to become a colleague of Mr. Justice Darling, and leave Lord Loreburn, Mr. Haldane and Mr. Asquith to find some other odd man.

THE "FEDERAL" CONVERSAZIONE.

DURING the week there has been a good deal of flourish and a good deal of trumpet about a numerous party calling itself a Federal Conference on Education. Why "federal"? If the gathering had any point at all, it was its Imperialism. We were gravely told that it represented the Empire more effectually and comprehensively than did the re-named Conference which has just dissipated, leaving so little trace behind it. Perhaps the Federal Education Conference, looking to the end of its cousin, preferred to avoid the name Imperial for fear of the suggestion of futility. This is quite an intelligible precaution, but surely some more intelligent alternative than "Federal" could have been found. The British Constitution, whatever it is that includes all the subjects of the King, is not a federation. We have no federal institutions, and the word as applied to Britain and the British dominions beyond the seas is meaningless. Perhaps it was a tribute of admiration to America. Perhaps after all it was merely the desire for a new phrase with a tall sound. It was naturally felt that there must be some novelty to justify yet another conference, to excuse an obviously factitious affair, the creation of a factitious league—yet another league! The "Federal Conference" is the child of the "League of the Empire", which we believe is not "The Empire League". Does any sane man or woman really suppose that all this fuss, this making and multiplication of leagues, this eternal calling of conferences, makes one single soul more patriotic than he was, or does anything, even the very smallest thing, to strengthen or unify the British Empire? Peoples are not made in that way, neither in that way are empires kept. The truth is that nine-tenths of all this fussy business is nothing but the gratification of the itch to be doing of a number of people who have nothing to do. We are quite aware that the agents of the machinery of education were most adequately represented at this conference. Of course they were. It is the misfortune of significant people who have something to do that they cannot keep clear of the toils of the busybody. The League of the Empire—think what that ought to mean; and what does it mean?—thought it a fine idea to have a conference on education. It writes to kindly education officers in the colonies: naturally they will not snub so well-sounding a proposal. The thing takes a certain shape—and the authorities at home do not like to snub it either: and so it comes off. And the Universities feel that it will not do for them to refuse to recognise it; they would be said to be out of touch with democratic forces. And then at the end every educationist thinks his brother, or his rival, will be there and so he must be there too. It will not do for him not to be seen, and if possible heard—and reported. And so these gatherings always end in being "a huge success". This is simply to say they happen: people do gather; one or two interesting speeches are made by big men—mainly gas, naturally—the small men talk at the regulation hours; and the various lunches, receptions, concerts, and the inevitable treat to His Majesty's Theatre are enthusiastically attended. The people who got the thing up are delighted; they are determined to do it again.

When, however, it comes to a cold estimate of what the gathering has done to advance the object which ostensibly called it together, how much is there to set down? We have not the slightest doubt that if we were to ask in private—though not exactly we, for that would suggest print—but if an old friend were in private to ask any responsible educationist who attended the conference what he thought of it all, he would answer, with a smile, that of course it was all gas. He would probably go on to say that it was never meant to be anything

else; and that ours was rather a simple question to ask. And then he would probably explain that of course the conference and discussions were nothing, but the thing did good by enabling teachers from different parts of the empire to see one another and talk together. It was an antidote to isolation, and was good for those who lived away from great centres. This is what every scientist always tells us of the annual meeting of the British Association. And we have no doubt it is true. Then why not say so openly? Why not admit that this was a *conversazione*? A *soirée* or a reception, call it what you will, serves the purpose very well. People with the tie of a common interest meet under—more or less—pleasant conditions; they can compare notes if they want to; and the stupid hypocrisy of a solemn conferring is got rid of. One has only to look at the constitution of these conferences to see that they are never meant to do anything. The Imperial Conference was an essentially business-like body—few in numbers; every member a most responsible person; and the object with which they met ascertained and understood. Yet the Imperial Conference could achieve little or nothing. But the Federal Conference included at least thirty-nine Colonial and Indian members; representatives of twenty universities, seventeen colleges (independent of the universities) and thirty "Associations" more or less connected with education. And this does not exhaust the tale of members by any means. As if such a body could seriously approach a single educational problem; still less hammer it out to any result. No man or woman in the world, that had knowledge and wanted to effect some educational object, could ever think of a conference of this sort as of any use for his purpose. He would not indeed go to any conference at all. He would know of a much more excellent way. The tone of the speeches of the abler men at the conference showed plainly enough that they did not mean to take it seriously as education. When Professor Sadler told us that travel was essential to enable people to get experience of life, it was plain enough how he gauged the occasion. Mr. Sadler has never confounded the time for talk with the time for thought.

We have often wondered why it is that those who are engaged in the profession of education so love a conference—the teachers' meetings in this country are endless, from the headmasters' conference to the elementary teachers' summer and winter meetings. They overdo it altogether to the prejudice of their extremely high calling. They ought to remember that the world—not without acumen—is apt to infer idleness from talk and thought from silence. Certainly no one who had honestly tried to face a single fundamental educational problem, and was in earnest, would rush lightly into talk about it. He would realise the difficulties too well, and the seriousness of the whole matter would restrain him. He might be forced to talk against his inclination, as no doubt were very many at the Federal Conference, when he would take refuge in saying nothing—especially nothing about the problem he was thinking of; as obviously many at this conference did. We shall not discuss any of the multitude of questions mentioned at the conference—though Mr. Balfour's precisely just estimate of the value of examinations tempts us—because we do not regard education as of the essence of the occasion. We hope that all who came from beyond the seas found it a pleasant party; and we hope they will come again, and see us either at work or at play, not playing at work. Playing "school" is not a man's amusement.

THE CITY.

IT is sad work to chronicle depression and falling prices week after week. But there will be no real revival on the Stock Exchange until brokers have recovered the heavy differences lost during the last six months from their clients. For the last twelve years, ever since the Kaffir boom in 1895, the so-called "business" on the Stock Exchange has been for the most part speculation on open account. Year after year the unhappy speculators have been paying differences,

always hoping that the turn of the tide would come at last. But it has not come; and the disappointment of nearly all the mining markets, Kaffirs, Siberians, and Australian Deep Leads, combined with the appalling collapse of American rails, has simply cleaned out the speculators. Probably ninety per cent. of the firms of stockbrokers are still owed large sums by their clients. Some will never pay; and the rest will pay in time. But until these debts are paid, it is useless to look for good markets. Those who have the requisite temperament and resources to be "bears" are having their innings, and will probably enjoy themselves for the next three or four months. The bear is nearly always an inside professional, as the public never sell short. The American market will probably have a violent recovery about September, when it will be seen that the crops are not so short as the panic-mongers make out. Besides, a shortage of wheat is always to some extent counterbalanced by higher prices. Mr. Harriman has destroyed confidence for the moment in American railway finance; and people are beginning to suspect that the accounts have been cooked—an impression which will be deepened by Mr. Roosevelt's vigorous speech at Indianapolis foreshadowing Federal control of railway finance. Just when it suits the big operators in Wall Street, the clouds will roll away, and nothing but "bull" points will be discovered. We have said that we expect this to happen in the autumn; but it may happen in July; it is impossible to judge the American market. With regard to Kaffirs, it is possible that the strike may result in reducing the number of white men employed in machine-minding. As these whites are paid exorbitant wages, the reduction of their number would be a "bull" point. But here again it is impossible to form a judgment at present. In the meanwhile the economic condition of the Transvaal and Rhodesia is as bad as bad can be. We are afraid that some of the South African banks will suffer.

The importance of the failure of Messrs. Hubert Brunton, except to themselves, was exaggerated by the press. The old firm of Brunton Bourke some years ago did an enormous business. But this firm has no connexion with the other, which, luckily for "the House", was not in such a big way of business.

The report and meeting of the Consolidated Trust show that this company, like so many other trust companies, has been picking up wonderfully in the last four years. Its net revenue, after paying interest on debentures and all costs of administration, has risen from £22,822 in 1903 to £30,149 for the past year. Its losses since its formation in 1887, just before the Baring and Argentine smash, are almost covered by its depreciation account, which stands at £67,456. The Consolidated Trust 4½ per cent. debentures are about the best gilt-edged investment in the market, as they have a gross revenue of £33,000 behind their interest; and their 5 per cent. second preference stock, in the neighbourhood of 90, are a really good speculative investment.

An evening paper reports an interview with Lord Rothschild in which he gives his opinion that the present state of things in the City is due to the apprehensions excited by the present Government. We certainly are not prejudiced in favour of the present Cabinet or its proposed legislation. But we cannot condemn too strongly the attempt on the part of certain Conservative newspapers to exploit the distress on the Stock Exchange for the lowest party purposes. The losses and misery are quite bad enough without being exaggerated for the paltry purpose of gaining votes at bye-elections. The fall in prices has no more to do with the Government than with the tides of the sea. That Lord Rothschild should lend the prestige which still hangs round his financial house to so disreputable a manoeuvre is almost incredible. Investors will not put their money into Consols and Home Rails for the simple and sufficient reason that, at the present prices of money and commodities, these securities do not yield an adequate return, not so high a rate of interest as may be obtained in other securities which are equally safe. If anybody is to blame for the fall in Consols it is the Government which threw open the obligations of the colonial Governments to trustee investments. Formerly there was a

large amount of money compulsorily invested in Consols under trust deeds. But when trustees can obtain $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Colonial bonds, why should they take $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Consols? As for Home Railways, the increased cost of materials and the higher rate of wages have so cut down profits that the yield is not good enough as compared with the return on, say, Argentine railway companies under English management. Why should anyone take 4 per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire Ordinary when he can get 6 per cent. in Buenos Ayres and Rosario, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Buenos Ayres and Pacific Ordinary, or over 6 per cent. in Union Pacific Preference? The Conservatives may be the Stupid Party; but they are not quite such idiots as to allow party politics to enter into the buying and selling of shares.

INSURANCE.

HOUSEHOLDERS' LIABILITY.—I.

THE Workmen's Compensation Act 1906, which comes into force on 1 July, makes the employers of domestic servants, clerks, shop assistants and others liable to pay compensation in the event of injury by accident. The maximum amount that may have to be paid is £300 if death results from the accident, or a weekly payment of £1 during the whole period of incapacity, which may last for life. The Act affects so many people and the liability under it is so serious that we intend to devote a series of articles to the subject, explaining the principal provisions of the Act and describing how these can be adequately met by the selection of a sound policy.

One of the most doubtful points in the Act is the definition of "workman". Every employee is entitled to compensation in certain circumstances, unless he comes under one or other of the few exceptions mentioned in the Act. If his remuneration exceeds £250 a year he has no claim, unless his employment is by way of manual labour. A partner in a firm, however small his income, cannot claim against the firm, nor can a member of the employer's family, dwelling in the employer's house. The most important exception is "a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business", to which must be added the distinction between a workman and a contractor, which it is not always easy to make.

It is the almost universal opinion that more or less regular temporary employment, such as that of charwomen, and gardeners who come once a week or once a month, will not be regarded as casual, and that an employer would be liable to such employees in the event of injury by accident. The case of a carpenter coming in to do odd jobs about the house is not so clear: in some cases it might be held that he was working "under a contract of service", which contract may be either "expressed or implied . . . oral or in writing". There seems nothing to define the length of time for which such a contract need be made. It is quite possible that a day's work might be considered such a contract of service, and then it is probable that the point to be decided would be whether or not the man was a contractor or a workman. If a carpenter, working on his own account, agrees to put up some shelves for a fixed price he might be held to be a workman on piece-work, or to be an independent contractor: in the one case he would, and in the other case he would not, be entitled to compensation. This, like a great many other cases under the Act, would have to be decided according to the circumstances in each instance, and according to the particular views of the arbitrator or judge before whom the case came.

If the person is employed "for the purposes of the employer's trade or business", it is immaterial whether the labour is casual or not. This complicates the question of liability in connexion with casual employees for the clergy; a vicar employs, or perhaps a vicar and his churchwardens employ, a good many temporary and casual workers. Church-cleaners, choir-boys, vergers, and grave-diggers are for the most part only employed for part of their time: much of it is regular work,

though some of it is irregular, and might be considered casual. There arises the question whether the cleaning of a church can be considered the vicar's "trade or business"; it seems quite likely that it would be so regarded in law. Unless work for the church can be legally differentiated from work for the schools, or for philanthropic institutions such as hospitals, it seems inevitable that the church authorities may be called upon to pay compensation, not only to regular workers employed for part of their time, but to all casual employees.

A different set of circumstances arises in connexion with people who live in flats, in which the owners pay hall-porters and others to do certain work for the tenants, and in which the tenants sometimes pay such employees for extra work, such as cleaning their flats. If a porter were injured while carrying luggage to or from a flat it is quite possible that he could take proceedings against both the tenant and the owner; and if he succeeded against the tenant, the tenant would probably have a legal claim against the owner. If, however, the porter were injured while cleaning the windows of a flat, the porter being paid by the tenant, and if this window-cleaning were a regular job, it is probable that the tenant would be liable, unless it could be shown that the porter was "temporarily lent or let on hire" by the owner, in which case the owner would be responsible.

Another point that is not altogether clear concerns the exclusion from compensation of "a member of a police force", and "persons in the naval or military service of the Crown". If a policeman is employed in his spare time as caretaker of a house, or to clean the windows, or if a private soldier works as an officer's servant, the question might be raised whether people injured in such service were or were not entitled to compensation. The cost of insurance against the various doubtful risks which we have been considering is so small that it would seem advisable for employers to insure against them and to let the insurance companies have the expense of defending claims if made, or of paying compensation if necessary.

INSIDE THE HOUSE.

(BY A MEMBER.)

THE Government have now entered upon the last phase of the session; the next two months must contain the whole of their successes, those that are past are bespattered only by their failures. Since they took the field a year and a half ago they have essayed vicarious assaults, and have attempted their attacks in various formations. The single marked similarity following upon their efforts is seen in the abortive character of the result. The commanders, careless and over-confident in the efficacy of sheer numbers, their followers insolent and inebriated with success at the polls, the Radical party rushed to battle last year in frontal formation, persuaded that hordes and hard words could carry any position. Startled into prudence by the entire loss of their principal measure in the first few months of their campaign, they have adopted during the present session other modes of warfare, and, abandoning their boldness, have sought by sapwork to proceed to the disestablishment of the Union.

A Government that is tripped by the House of Lords one session, and thrown on its back by the Dublin Convention at the next attempt, is one that would seem to be deficient in imaginative qualities and inefficient in executive capacity; shortcomings that might possibly be mitigated by allowing experiment to wait on experience, and by bringing methods of greater subtlety to the quest concerning the amount of heat contained in fire other than the bland device of thrusting in the finger.

In some quarters it has been suggested that Mr. Birrell should be invited to walk the plank, and it certainly appears as though the right hon. gentleman possesses some hitherto unsuspected relationship to the Prophet Jonah. The Government, however, have no intention of sacrificing the Chief Secretary on this score, doubtless having fully in view the difficulty, already experienced, of filling the post. His position

has been a thankless one throughout, exciting to sympathy those who regret to see a fellow-creature set to the task of shovelling about in quicksands. And there can be little doubt that Mr. Redmond would have accepted the Council Bill as a *hors-d'œuvre* before the meat of the "larger measure", had his followers in Ireland stood in the same degree of awe concerning him as the Cabinet at Westminster. But as he is not the King of Ireland, crowned or uncrowned, he has to do as he is told, and, having eighty votes in his pocket, the Government have for their part to do as he tells them.

Having lost therefore two big pitched battles, the Government are considering within their tent. The expected statement of the Prime Minister last Monday as to future public business was not forthcoming; in its place a promise that it should be made next week. Meanwhile one can suppose that the allied sections which support the Government are each hammering at the door of the Cabinet during the sittings; rivals now for immediate attention, and fearful lest, before their own little wants are satisfied, the Government may suffer such further losses in prestige and power as to render them incapable of passing any measure at all.

Whatever be the result and however the order of minor measures be arranged, there can be little doubt that the Ministry intend to recoup their losses by land legislation. In other directions they have been discomfited: Ireland and Education are abandoned fields; the Colonial Conference is a bitter memory of a hand-tied tussle, a further scene of disaster from which the Government are now in full retreat, leaving only as a rearguard Mr. Winston Churchill, tiptoe on the top of Castle Hill at Edinburgh putting out his tongue at the backs of the departing Premiers.

It fell to Mr. Harcourt on Monday to introduce the Small Holdings and Allotments Bill, and with it to usher in a policy which the Government hope that the intended beneficiaries may be induced to accept. The First Commissioner of Works must secretly congratulate himself on the acumen that induced his choice when he elected to retain his present post and forbore to attempt the more meteoric flight of a Chief Secretary for Ireland. Mr. Harcourt is in many ways an interesting contrast to Mr. Churchill: he is profoundly impregnated (for instance) with the sense of learning to walk before attempting a run; and so far from permitting himself to risk a fall, he will avoid the possibility rather by refusing to move. He is believed also to have attained the Treasury Bench without making a speech, whereas Mr. Churchill may be said to have shouted his way thither with some success.

The introductory speech of the First Commissioner was marked by the accustomed care that he lends to the punctuation of his political progress: a model in length, it lacked little in clarity, and if the pen had run somewhat purple on occasion, one felt that some licence must be allowed where so much trouble had been taken. Many of the features that are most objectionable in the Scottish Bill are absent from the English measure, and it is not easy to see wherein lies the principle of differentiation; but both alike bear the marks of town-bred intellects, and the same hesitancy to carry matters to a logical conclusion and enable those desirous of the doubtful advantages and certain anxieties of ownership to carry out their wishes.

The Small Holdings Act of the Conservative Government was asserted by Radical speakers in the debate to have been a failure; they did not, however, seek to indicate the cause, but left it by inference attributable to the fact that it was passed by the Unionist party. The real reason why a comparatively small amount of advantage has been taken of the powers contained in its provisions may be found in the novel but simple explanation that there is no great demand for small holdings. It will in any case be interesting to observe the workings of the new Act—should it become law—in one or two directions. The curious (who know little of landlords) will look to see whether the tenant (who does know) prefers to have set over him a County Council in place of the country gentleman; or whether of the two he would choose a body which, though popularly elected, has by

that very reason neither the power of postponement nor the right to be merciful. Further how the councils themselves, the people's chosen, will appreciate the interference and dictation of two gentlemen from the Board of Agriculture in experiments to which they are opposed and for which they will have to pay. Finally how the ratepayer, squeezed enough already, likes being called upon to find "equipment", if only on loan, for small holdings in order that music-hall allurements may be allayed and the glitter of the gutter rendered less attractive.

In Committee on the Army Bill Sir Charles Dilke is excited by the imaginative effort required to put himself in Mr. Haldane's position, and Mr. Haldane renders himself breathless in his attempt to put Sir Charles Dilke in his place.

THE IRISH PROBLEM.

[By the author of "Economics for Irishmen."]

*** We must remind our readers that the SATURDAY REVIEW accepts no responsibility for "Pat's" views on education, or on anything else. We print these articles as independent contributions to an ancient controversy by an observer on the spot.—ED. S.R.

IV.—"EDUCATION."

I OWE my success in life largely to the neglect of my early education, escaping from Ireland while the mind was yet young enough to survive. I had only one year's regular schooling before my escape, but I can never forget it. When an inspector was heard of in our region, the floor was swept, and the master hid his clay pipe; but we lost the good man, and got a lady, who slept in the afternoon, wrote love-letters when she woke, and got the children taught by one another. Some thought that her school hours ought not to have been given to sleeping and love-making; but no harsh word will be heard about her from me, for I know now how my salvation was endangered had she remained awake, though no marks are given for sleepiness at teachers' examinations. Only two distinguished men have ever left our school, and the other achieved his distinction as a thief.

"Alma Mater", dug into the north side of a nasty hill, shed cold tears on us in the winter mornings, as the small rebels came over the bleak landscape in the rain to sit coughing and shivering in their wet "clothes". Our single room was always a scene of mud or dust, according to the weather. Our heating problem was met by putting as many as eighty of us into a cubic space for twenty-five, and the sanitary system consisted in a row of stepping-stones on which we might walk round the institution without getting bogged, if we were very careful—the stepping-stones were outside the walls. Many of us saved the passage-money to America by dying. The manager was the priest. I never heard that he was in any way dissatisfied with our accommodation, and of course, if he was satisfied, no one else in the parish would dare to complain, even if we had to swim to school.

A public servant who had the approval of the priest might sleep during official hours, and while our lady dreamed, we lay on our backs on the benches to see who could reach his feet farthest up the wall, a game in which a girl named Mary always took the honours, owing to the length of her legs, which she could lift high above her head among the maps. Once the teacher woke too soon, and brought down an angry cane across the speckled shins, whereupon Mary got entangled in the map of the world, dragged it down, and plunged one of her legs through the Indian Ocean.

Seventeen years later I revisited "Alma Mater", and found her charmingly unchanged. At least a month's sweeping must have been pushed under the benches, where the children's feet had shaped it into drills like a potato field prepared for seeding. A class wholly barefooted had "In Memoriam" as the lesson for the day, the teacher declaring that she could never hope to make one of them understand a line of it; and though they were all peasants, the only suggestion of agriculture I could see in the school was beneath the

benches. Tennyson, carefully edited by an unliturgical Jesuit, was meant to "finish" them for cooking and hod-carrying in America, but neither the Imperial purse-holder nor the ecclesiastical conscience-monger could think of anything to make them useful at home. Why should the State make rebels efficient? I think myself that if you fit a man to live happily, he may find rebellion less attractive than happy living; but that would require more thought than Britain can give to the Irish problem, and then we have the clerical manager in the way, with the British Government so dependent on him, because the Irish rebel is so afraid of him. Why should a priesthood make uncertain by education an obedience made certain by ignorance? I think myself that it degrades religion, but that would require more thought than Rome can give to "the island of saints and scholars", which is still treated as "a missionary country", among the "barbarous" communities unworthy of full affiliation, notwithstanding the heroes we sent against the freedom of Italy and the "barbarous" loads of Peter's pence collected out of our ignorant poverty every year. A rebel race that can survive such an ancient and deadly combination of Rome and England, the two strongest powers in the world, might hope for much if only they were led, or were capable to be led, in constructive directions; but here comes the priest again, ready to smash Mr. Redmond's party at the National Convention had he not promptly dropped the attempt to give the people the control of their own children's education. While the priest controls education, he can keep the people ignorant enough to have his own power perfect, and that is why Mr. Redmond asks England for a free Parliament, while he dares not ask Ireland for a free school. This National Convention of ours has been most intensely interesting—in the things never mentioned. Broadly speaking, the only things worth discussing in Ireland are the things never discussed.

In another part of our parish I once witnessed a school visitation by the clerical manager, a fat man with small eyes, big hands and a purple face. The master turned pale, met him at the door, and executed a painful movement for a salute. His reverence passed in, not noticing it. Perhaps it had not been sufficiently abject. Evidently much alarmed, the master trotted round in front of him, and executed a still more painful movement. It was not a bow. I never saw anything else quite like it, even in "The Mikado". In a drooping posture, the "man" stretched out his arms, level but limp, like the wings of a squab expecting food; then he gave way at the knees, as if at the name of Jesus, but sank much lower, as if to acknowledge the relative importance of his visitor. I was only a child, but I could never forget the sight. I think of it whenever I read of the slave savage who puts his head under the master's foot; and this is the standard of manhood and of moral courage provided and perfected to-day by the British Government and by the Irish priest for the youth of Ireland. Britain takes our education money from us in taxes, and hands it back to the priest, subsidising our slavery in the name of education, and making our Christianity itself a curse to us, while "the leader of the Irish race at home and abroad" demands our self-government, and dares not mention our self-education. The British play the game well, but it is a dirty, un-British game to play, and I am sorry to see it adopted by a people whom I like, who have always been fair to me, and among whom I have spent the only pleasant years of my life. Yet, in the conditions, it is a choice between bargaining with rebellion and defeating it by subsidised clericalism; and so it is likely to continue until the Irish themselves see their way to present their case on some higher level than clericalism and in terms more practicable than revolution.

A typical manager in our region used to "sell" the schools to the highest bidder, getting £60 to £80 for himself from each principal appointed, with proportionate amounts from the assistants, and a preference to the monitor whose mother brought the biggest hampers of fowl, eggs and butter to the priest's kitchen during the years of candidature preceding the £6 a year appointment. A shop-keeping relative of the reverend gentleman negotiated the transactions, and

the teachers all felt bound to him, too often at his own price. There was a victim who could meet the purchase-money of his school only by instalments, and he was forced to accept the shopkeeper's bill, at 10 per cent., as for "shop-goods"; and after many years, having paid £55 in discharge of £70, he found he had over £40 still to pay. I knew him well. I saw his papers, and I knew others who had seen them, but they did not want to grow horns. This shopkeeper boasts that he gives £2,000 to each of his daughters on her marriage. The teachers go on levelling their wings and bending at the knees. The pupils prepare to escape from "Holy Ireland" as soon as ever they can.

Such is our rebel "Romanism" in British harness, and "the National Will" cannot well protect the plundered schoolmaster while Cardinal Logue dictates the dismissal of editors for saying that parents ought to have opinions on the education of their children. We call ourselves a nation, and we demand Home Rule, but we have not left alive in us enough nationality or manhood even to mention the tyrannies of our own that make rule of any sort useless among us. If we are fit for Home Rule, why can "our gifted leader" not tell the priest that we are fit for Home Education?

I have mentioned only a few of the facts that are known to me directly and personally. Are they too old? I find that the clerical influence in education has increased considerably since I was a boy. Are they peculiar to a specially unhappy district? I find them to-day everywhere I have been in rural Ireland.

A state of things even worse appears to prevail in the industrial schools and reformatories under ecclesiastical control. The head of the Christian Brothers at a very large place tells me he does not know of one useful citizen ever turned out, and Dublin ladies declare they find the inmates "covered with vermin". As they grow up, their work becomes profitable inside, but the taxpayer goes on paying outside, and not long ago it required a letter to the Chief Secretary to get one of them out. If they are not got in, the ecclesiastics may get less money, and so we find "procuring agents" at work to fill the dens. The famous Dinah Hely has a record of ninety-two in eighteen months, but Mary Collins beats her, with one hundred and two in a single year, 1897. The "profit" is so great that it "pays" to employ agents! In the report of the Ruckley case, Judge Boyd declares: "It is admitted that the practice prevails to a large extent of getting up bogus cases for the magistrate for the purpose of having a large number of children committed to industrial schools that legally ought not to be there, and thereby a fraud is committed upon the authorities and upon the rate-payers. . . . It is a case of pious fraud, and I will take leave to say that a fraud, as it is, committed under the guise of piety, is the worst kind of fraud there is." Why are the ecclesiastics so anxious to populate these vicious places? Educated people who have given much time to the subject have no hesitation in alleging "wholesale ecclesiastical plunder"; but the Government of the empire on which the sun never sets must have a medium of some sort through which to "manage the Irish," and for the present the priest appears to be the most convenient, since he alone can curb the souls of rebels in the imperial interest. The facts of the Ruckley case were put before the Lords of the Treasury, showing that "two years' grants had been fraudulently obtained", but the Treasury did nothing!

What do they teach? Here is an example, from the Thirty-seventh Report of Dr. Fagan, the Government Inspector: "In two of the largest schools for boys that I visited, I found classes of from thirty to forty engaged in the monotonous and not too highly educational occupation of knitting stockings, under the care of their only counsellor and friend, a motherly old woman. This constituted their only hand-and-eye training for several hours daily, carried on in most of the cases for several years—in one instance I met a lad who had spent six years at this work"—knitting stockings by hand. I have lately worked through piles of such official information, and cannot do more than touch a few representative items here.

Some years ago the late Dr. McKeown published a series of remarkable letters, which have stood criticism,

and from which I have made the following rather instructive comparison :

	Ireland.	Scotland.
Pupils on rolls ...	770,622	756,658
Average attendance ...	478,224	629,038
Annual cost per head ...	£2 11 9	£2 11 8
Illiteracy ...	men 15.1 per cent. women 13.2 "	2.16 per cent. 3.27 "
Schools clerically controlled ...	89	2*
Number of schools ...	8,684	3,623
Teachers ...	(nearly) 14,000	10,845
Average income { Principals†	£98	£173
{ Assistants†	£63	£108

The figures are all recent, and have to do with elementary education only. Irish schools have increased to more than double the number considered necessary when the population was double what it is now; but the total sum for salaries does not increase, and has to be divided among the increasing teachers. I have never heard a satisfactory reason for it, except that the presence of each teacher in the Irish parish is worth at least £5 a year to the priest's private income. My table cannot tell of such important considerations as the social position of the teacher, but we find 1,161 university men in Scotch schools from three universities alone, not including Edinburgh; and against this I will put a reverend neighbour of mine, in Mayo, who hunts up his schoolmasters, and drives them to work on his farm on Sundays, without either board or wages.

That most valuable book, "Forgotten Facts of Irish History", by Dr. Ardill, shows how ancient, how steady, and how treacherous a British instrument against Ireland our priest has been, never deadlier than to-day; and now comes our imperial Calvin from Scotland, under the cloak of "the scarlet woman", bribing the priest at Ireland's expense with one hand, and trying to trick him out of the schools with the other; but out comes the red hat, heralded by Mr. Tim Healy, and in two hours Mr. Redmond turns from Nonconformist Radicalism to the Crozier, with many speeches ready to prove that he had never wavered from his conception of the national mind and will as ecclesiastical assets. Only those in touch with the strings in Dublin know how near his destruction Mr. Redmond ran, and everybody sees that the Devolution Bill was childish if not meant to open the war that must some day come between Nationalism and the hierarchy. The sooner the better, for religion and for Ireland.

PAT.

THE INAUDIBLE AND INARTICULATE SCHOOL.

WE can judge Oscar Wilde's plays better to-day than twelve or fourteen years ago, when the author suffered alternately from undue inflation and undue depression, to borrow the terms of the Stock Exchange. When the plays first appeared, Wilde dominated the dinner-table so completely that he had only to ask for the salt to set up a roar. Then came the period of execration, when all his paradoxes were merely inverted platitudes, and all his epigrams were stale or stolen. To-day we can calmly distinguish the merits of "A Woman of No Importance" from its faults, and with a short but sufficient perspective classify the play in literature. It is rather remarkable that after an interval of a little more than a century one Irishman should succeed another in the production of plays whose merit is purely literary. Oscar Wilde is the Sheridan of our day. The plays of the two men have a strong family resemblance; for their charm lies not in plot, or pathos, or character-drawing, but simply in style—in sheer brilliance of expression, in hard, enduring wit. Sheridan and Wilde were both men of the world, heartless, disrespectful, but endued with the magic power of leaving stings behind them in the mind of their audience. Nobody sympathises with old Sir Peter Teazle or Uncle Oliver; and nobody really cares whether Lord Illingworth marries Mrs. Arbuthnot, or feels the slightest emotion when Gerald threatens to kill his father. In "A Woman of No Importance", as

in "The School for Scandal", it is not the story or the characters that excite us, but the gay rhetoric and dazzling fence of the dialogue.

In a play of this class it is obviously necessary that the words should be heard by the audience without effort. There are plenty of plays whose words are of no importance. In a historical spectacle or a roystering farce the exact words matter little, and so long as you catch the general drift of what the actors are saying you can be happy enough. But in a comedy of the Sheridan-Wilde school the dresses and the gestures are nothing compared with the very words. "A Woman of No Importance" is so badly acted at His Majesty's Theatre that nine-tenths of the words are lost between the proscenium and the third row of the stalls. I thought that this was due to the size of the house and its notoriously bad acoustics—until Miss Ellis Jeffreys appeared. But as I heard every word which this superb actress said, without the slightest difficulty, I was driven to the conclusion that I did not hear the others because they could not act. The truth is that Miss Ellis Jeffreys and Miss Marion Terry saved the play from damnation, for no one can stand the strain of trying to hear for very long. With the exception of these two ladies, the acting was absolutely amateurish, the speakers appearing partly frightened at the size of the building, and partly oppressed by the difficulty of the phrases committed to their tongues. And yet the actors and actresses concerned were really professionals; and if we leave out Miss Viola Tree and Mr. Quartermaine, have all been in the habit of receiving the meed of public approbation during quite a number of years. Mr. Beerbohm Tree is the only actor since Sir Henry Irving's death who maintains an eminent position in his profession without the power of learning a part or articulating it. During his last decade Irving was quite unintelligible; and apparently he has founded a school, the inaudible and inarticulate school. Although "A Woman of No Importance" has now been running more than a week, Mr. Beerbohm Tree has not yet learned his part. It is possible that Mr. Tree considers his attitudes as more important than Oscar Wilde's words, which he treated with dreamy contempt. I went to hear the words, and was baffled in the attempt from the first act to the last. Mr. Tree moons about the stage, muttering absently to himself, and occasionally bringing himself up with a jerk. "Oh, ah, yes, I remember: I am acting one of Oscar Wilde's plays; what on earth comes next?" Some of the best epigrams, such as the description of woman as a sphinx without a secret, and the saying that saints have a past and sinners have a future, were smothered by Mr. Tree's muffled whispering; and the dialogue between Lord Illingworth and Gerald, with which the third act opens—quite the best passage in the play—was abbreviated by Mr. Tree's lack of memory. What makes Mr. Tree's inaudibility and inarticulateness the more exasperating is that he really possesses a very good set of vocal chords; and that he can separate his words with perfect distinctness when he chooses. I should like, with all respect, to impress upon Mr. Tree that the Irvingesque method does not suit the Sheridanesque comedy; and that if he would condescend to such vulgar details as learning his part, raising his voice, and opening his mouth, he might rank as an interpreter of Wilde. Mrs. Calvert and Miss Kate Bishop are not successful as Lady Hunstanton and Lady Caroline: their mode of speech and movements being those of boarding-house landladies. The Archdeacon is a grinning mask, also of the inarticulate school, who reminds me painfully of what Mr. Kemble made of the part. Miss Viola Tree has the voice that weeps, and is not yet of the inarticulate school. She played the impossible part of the Puritan maiden as well as it could be done. Nothing proves Oscar Wilde's insincerity more than the failure of Miss Marion Terry, that mistress of pathetic parts, to touch our emotions as Mrs. Arbuthnot. It is so obvious that Wilde did not care twopence about the fate of the betrayed and deserted mother that we ask ourselves, Why should we care? The real triumph of the play is won by Miss Ellis Jeffreys: she is the woman of importance; the queen of the cynical comedy. Her voice, enunciation and carriage are

* 87 per cent. of Scotch schools are under elective boards, and only a majority of the remainder are under churches.

† Lowered since then, while Scotch salaries rise.

perfect; of her clothes I dare not trust myself to write. I do not know what may be the limitations of Miss Ellis Jeffreys, not having seen her often enough to judge, but in the part of Mrs. Allenby, the dauntless, disillusioned woman of the world, she seems to me to be without a rival, and to move easily upon the highest plane of art.

A. A. B.

PACHMANN: WITH A WORD ON GODOWSKY.

PACHMANN is the Verlaine or Whistler of the piano-forte. He has the head of a monk who has had commerce with the Devil, and it is whispered that he has sold his soul to the diabolical instrument, which, since buying it, can speak in a human voice. The sounds torture him, as a wizard is tortured by the shapes he has invoked. He makes them dance for his pleasure, and you hear their breath come and go, in the swell and subsiding of those marvellous crescendos and diminuendos which set the strings pulsating like a sea. He listens for the sound, listens for the last echo of it after it is gone, and is caught away from us visibly into that unholy company.

Pachmann is the greatest player of the piano now living. He cannot interpret every kind of music, though his actual power is more varied than he has led the public to suppose. I have heard him play in private a show-piece of Liszt, a thunderous thing of immense difficulty, requiring a technique quite different from the technique which alone he cares to reveal to us; he had not played it for twenty years, and he played it with exactly the right crackling splendour that it demanded. On the rare occasions when he plays Bach, something that no one of our time has ever perceived or rendered in that composer seems to be evoked, and Bach lives again, with something of that forgotten life which only the harpsichord can help us to remember under the fingers of other players. When I heard him play the Italian Concerto in F it seemed to me the greatest thing he had ever done, and I said of it at the time that his art in it was like the art of Bach himself for purity, poignancy, and clarity. Mozart and Weber are two of the composers whom he plays with the most natural instinct, for in both he finds and unweaves that dainty web of bright melody which Mozart made out of sunlight and Weber out of moonlight. There is nothing between him and them, as there is in Beethoven, for instance, who hides himself in the depths of a cloud, in the depths of wisdom, in the depths of the heart. And to Pachmann all this is as strange as mortal fire-sides to a fairy. He wanders round it, wondering at the great walls and bars that have been set about the faint, escaping spirit of flame. There is nothing human in him, and as music turns towards humanity it slips from between his hands. What he seeks and finds in music is the inarticulate, ultimate thing in sound: the music, in fact.

It has been complained that Pachmann's readings are not intellectual, that he does not interpret. It is true that he does not interpret between the brain and music, but he is able to disimprison sound, as no one has ever done with mortal hands, and the piano, when he touches it, becomes a joyous, disembodied thing, a voice and nothing more, but a voice which is music itself. To reduce music to terms of human intelligence or even of human emotion is to lower it from its own region, where it is Ariel. There is something in music, which we can apprehend only as sound, that comes to us out of heaven or hell, mocking the human agency that gives it speech, and taking flight beyond it. When Pachmann plays a Prelude of Chopin, all that Chopin was conscious of saying in it will, no doubt, be there; it is all there, if Godowsky plays it: every note, every shade of expression, every heightening and quickening, everything that the notes actually say. But under Pachmann's miraculous hands a miracle takes place; mystery comes about it like an atmosphere, an icy thrill traverses it, the terror and ecstasy of a beauty that is not in the world envelop it; we hear sounds that are awful and exquisite, crying outside time and space. Is it through Pachmann's nerves, or through ours, that this communion takes place? Is it technique, temperament, touch, that reveals to us what we have never

dreamed was hidden in sounds? Could Pachmann himself explain to us his own magic?

He would tell us that he had practised the piano with more patience than others, that he had taken more trouble to acquire a certain touch which is really the only way to the secret of his instrument. He could tell you little more; but, if you saw his hands settle on the keys, and fly and poise there, as if they had nothing to do with the perturbed, listening face that smiles away from them, you would know how little he had told you. Now let us ask Godowsky, whom Pachmann himself sets above all other pianists, what he has to tell us about the way in which he plays.

When Godowsky plays he sits bent and motionless, as if picking out a pattern with his fingers. He seems to keep surreptitious watch upon them, as they run swiftly on their appointed errands. There is no errand they are not nimble enough to carry without a stumble to the journey's end. They obey him as if in fear; they dare not turn aside from the straight path; their whole aim is to get to the end of the journey, having done their task faultlessly. Sometimes, but without relaxing his learned gravity, he plays a difficult game, as in the Paganini variations of Brahms, which were done with a skill as sure and as soulless as Paganini's may have been. Sometimes he forgets that the notes are living things, and tosses them about a little cruelly, as if they were a juggler's balls. They drop like stones: you are sorry for them, because they are alive. How Chopin suffers, when he plays the Preludes! He plays them without a throb; the scholar has driven out the magic; Chopin becomes a mathematician. In Brahms, in the G Minor Rhapsody, you hear much more of what Brahms meant to do; for Brahms has set strange shapes dancing, like the skeletons "in the ghosts' moonshine" in a ballad of Beddoes; and these bodiless things take shape in the music, as Godowsky plays it unflinchingly, giving it to you exactly as it is, without comment. Here his fidelity to every outline of form becomes an interpretation. But Chopin is so much more than form that to follow every outline of it may be to leave Chopin out of the outline.

Pachmann, of all the interpreters of Chopin, is the most subtle, the one most likely to do for the most part what Chopin wanted. The test, I think, is in the Third Scherzo. That great composition, one of the greatest among Chopin's works, for it contains all his qualities in an intense measure, might have been thought less likely to be done perfectly by Pachmann than such Coleridge in music, such murmurings out of paradise, as the Etude in F Minor (Op. 25, No. 2) or one of those Mazurkas in which Chopin is more poignantly fantastic in substance, more wild and whimsical in rhythm, than elsewhere in his music; and indeed, as Pachmann played them, they were strange and lovely gambols of unchristened elves. But in the Scherzo he mastered this great, violent, heroic thing as he had mastered the little freakish things and the trickling and whispering things. He gave meaning to every part of its decoration, yet lost none of the splendour and wave-like motion of the whole tossing and eager sea of sound.

Pachmann's art, like Chopin's, which it perpetuates, is of that peculiarly modern kind which aims at giving the essence of things in their fine shades: "la nuance encor!" Is there, it may be asked, any essential thing left out in the process; do we have attenuation in what is certainly a way of sharpening one's steel to a very fine point? The sharpened steel gains in what is most vital in its purpose by this very paring away of its substance; and why should not a form of art strike deeper for the same reason? Our only answer to Whistler and Verlaine is the existence of Rodin and Wagner. There we have weight as well as sharpness; these giants fly. It was curious to hear, in the vast luminous music of the "Rheingold", flowing like water about the earth, bare to its roots, not only an amplitude but a delicacy of fine shades not less realised than in Chopin. Wagner, it is true, welds the lyric into drama, without losing its lyrical quality. Yet there is no perfect lyric which is made less by the greatness of even a perfect drama.

Chopin was once thought to be a drawing-room composer; Pachmann was once thought to be no "serious artist". Both have triumphed, not because the taste of

any public has improved, but because a few people who knew have whispered the truth to one another, and at last it has leaked out like a secret.

ARTHUR SYMONS.

THE RECTOR'S GLEBE.

FROM time immemorial the pastures known as "Church Meadow" and "Hither Walk" with the coppice beyond have belonged to the Rectors of Drogenforde. When the Doomsday record was made, the manor was held by the Bishop, and a Saxon church stood in one corner of the glebe. And since then we may be allowed to associate the pleasant meadows which slope towards the river Meon with the successive Rectors who have held the living. The names of many of them are lost in oblivion, but some five-and-twenty are known. Of these the most interesting is that of Dr. William Hawkins, the son-in-law of Izaak Walton. The author of "The Compleat Angler" often stayed at the Rectory, where, as we learn from his "last will and testament", many of his books and belongings were kept. He must frequently have wandered over the glebe, "chequered in spring with water-lilies and lady-smocks", down to the "swift, shallow, clear brook", sometimes alone with a fishing-rod in his hand, and sometimes in company with one of his friends—with Mr. Francis Morley perhaps, who lived at the Manor House hard by and to whom he left a ring, or with Thomas Ken, his near relative by marriage; or more certainly with his little grand-daughter Anne Hawkins, to whom "sitting under a willow-tree by the water-side" he would doubtless preach lessons of "sweet content". In those days the secret subterranean passage which tradition says ran from the Manor House, beneath the glebe meadows, to the "Palice-mead" beyond, where a mansion or monastery is said to have stood, was doubtless known to the villagers, who still love to talk, in hushed voices, of the mysterious way. We may think, too, of Mr. Nicholas Preston, "the sequestered minister" in the days of the Commonwealth, wandering sadly over the pastures, which were rightly his, and listening to the owls hooting in the twilight as they issued from the old church tower. Mr. Robert Webb, too, the Puritan preacher, who is said to have been a good man and eminent in the pulpit, had possession of the glebe for ten years, and, if such frivolities were not beneath his notice, must have often hearkened to the nightjars of a summer's evening, and watched the moorhens and dabchicks in the stream below.

In one corner of the glebe a stone monument will be seen, some six or seven feet in height, and of not inelegant design. It was erected in 1789, to the memory of Lewis Stephens D.D., Rector of the parish, who at his death in 1746 left a strip of meadowland, known as "Longmead", to his successors in the living "for the term of five hundred years". The said narrow strip of land lies directly between "Church Meadow" and "Hither Walk"; hence the appropriate Latin inscription adapted from Horace, inscribed on the monument, which may be rendered as follows: "Thanks to the gift of yon intervening meadow, my little Glebe is now four-square." The meadow, which borders the river Meon, is at times little better than a swamp, and from an old map in the writer's possession seems to have been formerly an osier-bed. For agricultural purposes it is of little value, the herbage being rank and mixed with coarse rushes and sedges; but from the point of view of a naturalist "Longmead" is a most interesting addition to the Rector's glebe. Many choice species of plants grow undisturbed in the boggy ground. When the king-cups are in flower the meadow is a sheet of gold; and later the water-avens will be in bloom and the lesser skullcap. Several kinds of orchids may also be found, including the bee-orchis and both varieties of the marsh-orchis; while in the height of summer great thickets of meadowsweet will fill the air with fragrance.

During the breeding season "Longmead" is always tenanted by several pairs of peewits, and the "drumming" of a snipe is a familiar sound. Wild ducks, too, make their nests in the tall tussocks of grass and

rushes which occupy the swamper portions of the ground, and more than one moor-hen's nest may always be seen. As autumn approaches, large numbers of sea-gulls make their appearance on the glebe, and dabchicks frequent the stream. The stately heron becomes a constant visitor, and adds much dignity to the quiet surroundings. Now and again rarer species will show themselves. Some years ago, during a severe frost, a strange bird was noticed among the tall reeds which skirt the river. It was shy, and difficult of approach; but at last unfortunately it fell a victim to the gun. It proved to be a fine specimen of the common bittern, a bird, alas! never since met with on the Rector's glebe. Once too, for several weeks, a hoopoe frequented the spot, to the intense delight of the keen ornithologist who then held the living.

A "gentle walk" leads from the Rectory to the river, now as in the days of Izaak Walton full of "store of trouts". Indeed as many as forty fine fish might be counted last season from the rustic bridge which spans the stream. Strange to say, the may-fly, which is common enough a mile below, has never yet been seen on the water which flows through the Rector's glebe. On the banks water-voles abound, and now and then an otter comes up the river. Indeed the glebe is a veritable sanctuary for wild creatures. The pasture is covered with mole-hills. If you listen attentively you may perchance hear "the hedge-pig whine". On a summer's evening the great bat, first noticed by Gilbert White of Selborne, will be hawking for insects above the lofty elms. Dormice are plentiful among the tangled vegetation of the hedgerows. Squirrels too may occasionally be seen, and hares are frequent visitors; but of late years the badger does not seem to have haunted the quiet haven of the Rector's glebe. Still, not half a mile distant is "Brock Bridge", doubtless named after the harmless animal which, in former years, had its burrow in the immediate vicinity.

Beyond "Hither Walk" the long belt of beech-trees begins which leads to a neighbouring Rectory about a mile distant. The story goes, and seems to be well substantiated, that the trees were planted about one hundred years ago by the respective Rectors of the two parishes. The Rectors, it appears, were fast friends, and moreover were connected by marriage, and being persons of considerable wealth—one of them held five livings in addition to a canonry at Winchester—they determined to plant a shady grove which should connect the two establishments. The "Beech Walk", as it is called, now forms a conspicuous feature in the landscape, and contains a number of fine trees, some of large size. Our pluralist-Rector, who is the "Parson Poulter" of Cobbett's "Rural Rides", was a great tree-fancier, and withal a botanist of some repute. His former garden on the banks of the Meon can still show a fine catalpa, a large Judas-tree, a beautiful deciduous cypress, and several lofty tulip-trees of his planting. A list of wild-flowers too remains, which in conjunction with his friend's brother, who afterwards became Dean of Winchester, he drew up as growing on the Rector's glebe. Among these a most interesting example may be mentioned. There flourished in those days, more than a century ago, not far from the old water-mill, *Thalictrum flavum*, or the yellow meadow-rue. It is a plant the writer had never met with during many years' diligent botanising. Inspired by the Rector's entry, he carefully examined the ancient glebe; and there, doubtless on the very spot that "Parson Poulter" had noticed it some time before the year 1799, the graceful plant, with its finely-cut leaves, was in full flower last summer. It is said that the exceedingly rare coral-root (*Dentaria bulbifera*) was once found in the thick hedgerow which borders "Church Meadow", not far from the spot where year by year the green alkanet (*Anchusa sempervirens*) puts forth its rich blue blossoms—perhaps its only habitat in the county.

A "right-of-way" now exists through the "Beech Walk", which is nevertheless the haunt of a number of wild creatures. Last season a fox made his home there for several months, and might be seen almost any day by those who knew where to look for him. The smaller birds abound. Two or three species of tits—the blue-tit, the oxeye, and the cole-tit—are always present, and

most likely a colony of those exquisite little creatures, the long-tailed tits. There is mostly a bullfinch about the coppice; and thanks to the Wild Birds Protection Act, goldfinches are no longer rare. Sometimes, in hard winters, large flocks of wood pigeons roost in the lofty beech-trees; and a number of finches congregate in the shelter of the underwood. Among these a few bramblings may mostly be found. During the severe weather of last January a goodly number of these interesting winter visitors might be seen under the beeches, searching for the fallen mast, which is a favourite food in frosty weather. The male brambling is a handsome bird, and may be at once distinguished from the chaffinch, which he somewhat resembles, by his slightly larger size, and by the whitish patch on the lower part of the back, which is very conspicuous when the bird is on the wing.

THE REDSHANKS AND THE RUFF.

AN incidental advantage of leaving one's native land, in order to observe some bird unknown or uncommon there, whose habits are of peculiar interest, is this, that one may sometimes find those of some old familiar friend or another of equal, or, at any rate, considerable interest, in a manner before unsuspected. It may be more (or less) abundant—for the habits of all animals are influenced by their numbers—or its interrelations with different species, as well as the altered character of the country, may have a similar modifying effect, or, again, one's own powers of observation may be stimulated by these or other causes, with corresponding results. One may see it there, perchance, in greater numbers, by which the life of all birds—nay of all beings—is affected, or the strangeness of its surroundings and company, investing it for the time with a kind of newness, powers of observation that have, in its case, lain dormant, may quicken and bear fruit. The above reflection may serve as the prologue to a pretty little play of the redshanks, brought out on a foreign stage, and unremarked by me before; and if the case of the "parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus" should here seem applicable, it will, at least, be conceded that a mouse, whencesoever issuing, is a graceful little animal, by no means unworthy attention; indeed it has inspired lines equal—one may just as well say "superior"—for what, when one talks in this way, should stop one? all passes—to any that a mountain has given us. Be this as it may—and for my own part I conceive of literary criticism as an everlasting insistence on one's own private taste, or the want of it—the redshanks, who is entitled to all the pride and advantages of being a British bird, behaves when abroad, in the spring-time, in a manner which, at first sight, strikes one as somewhat un-English. Several of these birds may, under the predicated circumstances, be collected together on some open piece of ground from which, all at once, they take flight and, after a little aerial Rundreise, return again to the same spot. Here they stand or walk about, as they had been doing before, each occupied with his individual proclivities till, as though wearied by such terrestrial activity, *altiora petunt*, and all, once more, as by a common impulse, sweep heavenwards—though not, it must be confessed, very high. Shortly, as is usual, they come down, and in due course go up again; and these little excursions and reassemblings may be continued, at longer or shorter intervals, for an hour or so, perhaps, on an April or May morning—by June, with a family, earth has conquered.

As a rule, when the birds rise, they do not fly off at once, but hang poised, for a little, over the spot of their choice, on wings which quiver gracefully. Then they sweep away, to be drawn back, after circling hither and thither, as though by an invisible thread. Such, in its main elements, is the sport or play, but longer observation, as is usual in such matters, makes accurate description more difficult—at least forces it to be less concise. When it first begins—or rather when one's attention is first drawn to it—a troupe of perhaps eight or nine birds are taking part in the

performance; but as it advances these players, like others, are seen to "have their exits and their entrances", so that the number may sometimes rise to a dozen or over, and at other times shrink as low as to three or four—yet, all the while, the same scene is being presented. Whether, when the assemblage is thus augmented, all the birds composing it were there at the beginning, or whether it has been joined by others who have either, since, flown away, or remained in place of former members—whether, in fact, the birds that go and those that come belong to the original corps de ballet, or what the original number of this was, it is difficult, if not impossible, to say. It is noticeable, however, that when any small body separate themselves from the rest, they show the same tendency thus to leave and return to the place where they may now settle; or, here and there, over the flat landscape, one may observe other little groups engaged in the same simple pastime. Again, in following these movements of apparently the same ballet for two consecutive days, it is noticeable that though the place of rendezvous is approximately the same, yet it is not exactly so, but some few paces off perhaps, on a bare stretch instead of a grass-patch, or vice versa. The fact, however, that about the same number of birds are doing the same thing, at about the same place, seems fair evidence as far as it goes that the individual elements of which the band is composed, though fluctuating, are constant, or, at any rate, that they tend to become so. The main point is this, that there seems to be a tendency amongst redshanks to become attached to a certain spot of ground—apparently for no better reason than that they happen to be standing there—to which, when they have left it, they will time after time fly back in preference to any other.

Such a habit as this, having nothing beyond or in relation to it, may seem but of small importance, but if we take it in connection with some more developed ones, in other species, in which it plays a part, and more especially if—as for every evolutionist I hold it be—a peculiar interest attaches to the beginnings of things, then assuredly it is worth remarking, since it is calculated to throw light on origins. Now, as is well known, many birds have habits more or less remarkable for the due observance of which they repair to a certain spot, and it might be supposed that this local attachment, if in such cases it exists, was a mere corollary of the habit itself, since, without it, its *raison d'être* would seem to be wanting. With the bower-birds, for instance, unless successive "bowers" be made and disported in, the bird must necessarily resort to the place of their building, and the same may be said in regard to the Argus pheasant, who does not, presumably, keep finding and clearing a number of different playgrounds. Here we might think that the love of a particular spot was merged, in the one case, in that of æsthetic adornment, and, in the other, in that of neatness or tidiness—the feminine passion of having things in their (postulated) places. When, however, the only observable activities which prevail in a certain selected locality are the common ones of fighting and courting, it is by no means apparent why these should not be indulged in, now here and now there—in fact anywhere, as they are with most species—instead of in just this one place. Why, for instance, should the blackcock fly down, to court and do battle, upon one moss or peat hag, amidst the surrounding fir-forest, rather than another, though it be but a hundred yards off? And why should the ruff return, year after year, to a particular patch on the low-lying flat-lands, till it become worn with his trappings, though it would be difficult to find one single spot on the entire expanse which would not do precisely as well? If this be a purely local predilection, then in the redshanks, which neither courts nor fights, nor does anything else in particular in these little temporary assembly grounds, we perhaps see that primitive conservative instinct which may be the origin of all such predilections. And this trivial habit of the redshanks may throw light, in a particular manner, on those more important and permanent reunions which are held by the ruff—who belongs to the same family—inasmuch as there may be two, if not more, of these within but a short distance of one another, and the

habitues of each are accustomed to a certain, though limited, extent to meet and mingle, so that an observer of either notices, almost daily, though mostly but for a short time, new faces amongst the old. Ruffs, too, it will be found, have other places where, though they do not resort to them for nuptial purposes, they yet seem to like to go down and remain for a little together. Lastly, the following observation has fallen to my lot. Amongst such a little band of redshanks, acting as described, I have noticed one bird, considerably larger, of a much darker colour—almost black—and with much thicker plumage on the neck—in fact, a male ruff, though not yet nuptially adorned. Whatever the redshanks did, this ruff did too. When they flew away he went with them; when they returned he was amongst them; in short, he seemed one of themselves. From the above facts it may perhaps be surmised that the developed place-loving instinct—if we thus term it—of the ruff has originated in the same embryonic beginnings which we see in its cousin the redshanks.

EDMUND SELOUS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VERBUM SAP.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Paignton, 28 May, 1907.

SIR,—The Imperial Conference having come to a predestined end, while remembrance of its significance is still in the public mind, will you permit me to cite the following extract from an author not long deceased, but who "being dead yet speaketh" as follows* :—

"One of the first things which we have to do towards this end [the welding together of the aims and interests of England and her dependencies] is to get rid of our Olympian self-satisfaction, and to bear in mind that we have quite as much to gain from union with our overseas dependencies as they have; nay, that in another generation it might be ours to sue, and possibly to sue in vain, for this connexion. We ought to cultivate the wholesome habit of regarding these magnificent possessions as being just about the thing that we have most reason to be proud of, as indeed the other nations of the world actually do regard them; and we should study to secure and to retain their affection and goodwill by all the means at our command. At present they may be, as regards resources and population, 'small and of no reputation', but they will not long be so. At present their auxiliary war contingents may be slender, and significant solely as symbolical of a friendly sentiment; but in the brief course of another generation these dependencies will be populous and powerful, and their military and naval co-operation will be decisive of the gravest issues. We must cultivate habitual respect for communities which so well deserve it; and, in fine, we must endeavour to form the habit, so wisely recommended by Professor Seeley, of regarding our transoceanic possessions as part and parcel of our Empire, just as much as Devonshire or Caithness, and our brethren across the sea as our countrymen just as much as the men of Kent or Cornwall."

These are weighty words, and should not carry the less weight because they are from a posthumous work of their author, who had personally reckoned with the Antipodes.

Faithfully yours,
MORRIS BENT.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE AND FOREIGN TRADE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Hamburg, 28 May, 1907.

SIR,—You have justly condemned the abnormal language used recently by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, but what have the public to think about a speech of the President of the Board of Trade, who is reported to have discovered during a short trip to this

* Cf. p. 231, "Dribbles and Drabbles", by the late Major-General Battrick Maxwell, LL.D.

place and Antwerp that both these ports enjoy important commercial advantages over London?

A considerable number of business men in England have known such facts for many years, and some have felt the influence of such advantages before they were aware of their existence. To my mind a man occupying an important position on the Board of Trade for a nation of traders ought to have made a study of the trading facilities of other nations before assuming such a position.

He appears to know even less of the advantages of import duties as levied on this side after a well-proven effective system; whether such duties are raised for revenue or for other objects seems immaterial, because they are a necessity under modern trading conditions.

Whether he inquired about such advantages we are not told; perhaps political economy is not worth overmuch study by Free Trade politicians, who prefer a state of happy ignorance, shared unfortunately by some prominent scientific people who it appears cannot emerge from the stone age of evolution.

Some of our journalists are here at present on invitation to make studies, I suppose, on German friendship. There will be some feasting at all events, and flattering compliments will be exchanged, but I am afraid that will be all. A better friendship can only be established when England begins to demonstrate that she is well able to hold her own against foreign aggressive commercial competition. It will create respect on this side, which is much needed.

I am, Sir, yours very sincerely,
A. DROEGE.

MORE COPYWRONG.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge,
Northumberland Avenue, May 28, 1907.

SIR,—Messrs. Routledge & Co. announce a new edition of Johns' "Flowers of the Field"—a work which we have published for the last fifty years, the copyright of which has now expired.

Of course, anyone can print non-copyright matter, but Messrs. Routledge have gone out of their way to depreciate the latest edition of the work, which was completely revised and re-written for us a few years ago by Professor G. S. Boulger F.L.S.

This edition is in every way abreast of modern requirements and is purchased in large quantities every year by the leading educational authorities.

In a prospectus, a copy of which I enclose, Messrs. Routledge imply that this latest edition is not "a really trustworthy popular guide" and that it is "not up to date in its text". They claim as a special and distinctive merit of their new issue that it adopts the modern classification, though they must know perfectly well that it has no advantage in this respect over Mr. Boulger's edition, and the up-to-date character of their book may be inferred from the fact that it reproduces cuts which were rejected as inadequate as far back as 1871.

The introduction of this kind of depreciation into an advertisement is a question of taste which I need not discuss. A more serious aspect of the case is that Messrs. Routledge are misleading the public as to the true facts when they seek to convey the impression that those who desire to obtain the only trustworthy and up-to-date edition of the book must purchase it from them at 7s. 6d., and that our latest edition, which can be obtained from any discount bookseller at 5s. 8d., is by comparison worthless.

I have not touched upon the legal aspect of this depreciatory notice, which is reserved for our legal advisers.

Yours very faithfully,
EDMUND MCCLURE,
Secretary.

[We have carefully examined Johns' "Flowers of the Field", edited by Professor Boulger—a highly capable authority—and published by the S.P.C.K., and find it an excellent edition and quite "up-to-date".—ED. S.R.]

SHALL THE ALHAMBRA PERISH?

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Royston, Eton Avenue, N.W.,
28 May, 1907.

SIR,—The traveller who from the beautiful Vega of Granada sees the ruddy towers of the Alhambra contrasting with the snowy peaks of the Sierra Nevada in the distance will wish that so lovely a palace of enchantment might be transported to his own country. Let him put his desire into words, and he will find the palace of the Moorish Kings of Granada, with all its courts and halls, instantly tendered for his acceptance, after the courtly Spanish fashion, with the simple formula "It is yours". And so, in effect, it is yours, and ours, and everyone's.

For some years past, sinister rumours have been prevalent that this precious building, founded in the thirteenth century by Mohammed the First, Sultan of Granada, is in danger. Fortunately, it is not too late to avert the peril in which it stands, and the question is only one of funds. The Spanish Government, naturally anxious for the preservation of this renowned pile, provides for current expenses of repair; but so far has not been able to expend the large sum necessary to effect a thorough restoration. It may perhaps be hoped that some thoughtful, large-minded millionaire will do himself much honour by throwing some thousands literally "into the breach".

To contemplate the possibility of the collapse of the palace is to be filled with dismay. It is a marvel, it is true, that it should have survived the shocks of earthquake, the fury of Ferdinand and Isabella's soldiery, the demolition of whole suites of chambers by the Emperor Charles V., its many devastating conflagrations, and—the crowning disaster of all—its wanton spoliation by the French troops under Sebastiani in January 1810. Yet, in spite of the damage wrought by malice, rapine, neglect and accident, this Arabic Acropolis still rises proudly above the Vega, mutely demanding to be preserved for the worlds of art, history, and romance.

The Alhambra has fascinated travellers and writers of every age and nation. To realise its spell, its mystery and its magic, one must live in the palace and contemplate it—like "fair Melrose"—by moonlight, when all around is still. At such a time the effect is unforgettable; every rent and chasm of time, every mouldering tint and weather-stain disappears; the long colonnades of marble brighten in the moonbeams, and the decorated halls—the pride and delight of the proud princes of the Beni Nasr—are illumined with a softened radiance, until we seem to walk in the enchanted palace of some Arabian tale. The long lines of the walls and towers follow the curves and dips of the ground just as an artist would have them placed; the wooded slopes, kept green by water-courses, are tenanted by nightingales singing as if in pain at so tender a scene of desolate beauty.

Never was the annihilation of a nation more complete than that of the Spanish Moors. The exiled remnant of a once powerful and cultured people became assimilated with the predatory hordes of Barbary. Thus the Alhambra remains not merely an Oriental palace amidst the Gothic edifices of westernmost Europe—a Moslem pile in the midst of a Christian land—but almost the last monument of a culture, a civilisation, a society that has utterly passed away.

With the pen, unaided by the brush, no adequate idea can be conveyed of the beauty, the delicacy, and the richness of Mohammedan art in Spain as exemplified in the towers, courts and halls of the Alhambra. On entering one seems transported to fairyland. Arches borne upon pillars too slender seemingly to sustain their weight; ceilings and walls incrustated with fretwork so minute and intricate as to baffle the most patient draughtsman; and amidst or around the most complex forms, constantly disposed Arabic sentences of moral and religious tendency, the most often-repeated being "Wa la ghalib illa Allā!"—"There is no conqueror but God!"—the famous motto of the founder Al Ahmar and his successors.

In the Hall of Justice, with its exquisite arches springing from the thinnest columns, are the famous paintings on leather ascribed to the fifteenth century, painted on skins nailed to the dome. These unique specimens of Moslem pictorial art should have been placed under glass long ago.

More beautiful still is the Hall of the Two Sisters. Here nothing can surpass the charm of the prospect through a range of apartments where a succession of arches terminates in a large window affording a view of open country. The symmetry is superb; its stalactite ceilings are the most perfect examples remaining of this curious kind of decoration; and very beautiful is the honeycomb vaulting, with thousands of fantastic cell formations, as though the architect had been assisted in his work by swarms of Brobdingnagian bees. At the upper end of the hall, but separated from it by a corridor, is the famous Balcony of Lindaraja. On this the poets, painters, and architects of Granada's prime lavished their most exalted efforts. The varieties of form and colour which adorn other portions of the palace have here been blended with the happiest effect. Great pains were expended on the inscriptions which address themselves to the eyes by the beauty of the characters—exercise the intellect by the effort to decipher their curious and complex involutions!—and reward the imagination by the beauty of the sentiments and the music of their composition. The eye soars upward and flutters in and out of those flower-cup cells which seem the first creative types of some fresh world.

In the Hall of the Abencerrages one is told that thirty-six cavaliers of the heroic tribe of that name were sacrificed to appease the jealousy or allay the fears of a tyrant. A deep stain on the marble pavement is pointed out by the cicerone as proof incontestable of the massacre.

On entering the Court of the Myrtles, Granada changes to Damascus. The walls are no longer forbidding blocks of stone, but pierced trellises that turn sunlight and moonlight into filigree patterns. "Surely they are needlework turned to stone", says a traveller of long ago; "or some great Sultan has built them with panels cut from caskets of Indian ivory, though the piecing be not seen". Hence it is but a step to the Court of Lions. No part of the edifice gives a more complete idea of its original magnificence, for no portion has suffered so little from the ravages of time. In the centre stands the famous fountain. The alabaster basins still shed their diamond drops; and the twelve lions which support them spout forth their crystal streams as in the days of Boabdil—if only on rare occasions. Looking upon the fairy tracery of the peristyles, and the apparently fragile fretwork of the walls, it is extraordinary that work so delicate should have survived the wear and tear of centuries. It is almost sufficient to excuse the popular tradition that the whole is protected by a magic charm.

Beyond the Court of Myrtles is the oblong Sala de la Barca, radiant with colour as the edge of fading evening cloud. One passes on into the Hall of Ambassadors—with a dome that bursts like a flower bell upon the sight. These domes appear to be mere resting clouds swelling around one. One has no sense of their weight or means of permanency—all is airiness. The walls are like the leaves of illuminated missals framed by cornices of poem and prayer. The Hall of Ambassadors is the largest and most imposing apartment in the palace, though in arrangement and symmetry of details less perfect than the Hall of the Two Sisters.

When one considers the beauty and the grandeur of it all, the lofty and romantic associations of these halls, the high level of culture they indicate, it seems incredible, nay impossible, that the Alhambra shall be allowed to go down to destruction—that no hand should be stretched forth "to save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time" which has overwhelmed the once-mighty race that reared these threatened walls.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALBERT F. CALVERT.

REVIEWS.

BRAZEN DOCUMENTS.

"The Brasses of England." By H. W. Macklin. London: Methuen. 1907. 7s. 6d. net.

THE history of brass engraving lends itself to division into definite periods which, making some allowance for overlapping of styles, correspond roughly with distinct phases of the national life. Seeing in this his opportunity to connect brasses more closely with the history of the country, Mr. Macklin has adopted historic periods as the main basis for the arrangement of his book on the memorial brasses of England. The effigy of Sir John Daubernoun at Stoke d'Abernoun heads the list of early specimens still in existence which belong to the reigns of the first two Edwards: they form a small group apart and are too well known to need description; the latten of which they are made is very thick and of good quality, and the engraved lines cut deep in the metal possess a beauty peculiarly their own. The second period covers the reigns of Edward III. and Richard II.; this Mr. Macklin calls the golden age, for the artistic treatment of brasses falling within it touches high-water mark: as an indirect result of the Black Death brasses became much more numerous, for the accumulation of wealth which followed it brought them within reach of all classes of society. The first brass to commemorate a trader appeared about 1350, and the large foreign plates made to the order of rich merchants indicate that the commercial element was growing rapidly in importance about that time. On foreign brasses in England Mr. Macklin has written a very interesting chapter: he is of opinion that those at King's Lynn, S. Albans, Wensley, North Mimms and Newark probably came from Lübeck; the evidence he brings forward is strongly in favour of his contention, though hitherto they have been classed generally as Flemish. In the Lancastrian period there are signs of decline in the art of engraving, the lines are finer and shading is introduced; in the second half of the fifteenth century deterioration becomes marked, figures grow stiff and shading is oftener employed. Mr. Macklin takes the brasses laid down during the Wars of the Roses to form a fourth group; some of these suggest a confusion of ideas, flowers and grass appearing at the feet of persons whose heads rest on tilting helms. At this period trade symbols were frequently used for decorative purposes, and party badges and collars are conspicuous in monuments of those entitled to wear them.

The Tudor era is more noticeable for the quantity than the quality of its brasses: special types such as chalice brasses, heart brasses, shrouded figures and skeletons were in considerable favour while it lasted, and mural brasses began to occupy a prominent place amongst memorials of the dead. On the death of the eighth Henry engravers experienced a bad time; but with the accession of Elizabeth, trade reviving, the renewed demand for brasses must have kept them fairly busy. Latten was manufactured in England for the first time in Elizabeth's reign; but the home-made article was poor thin stuff, though good enough perhaps for the pictures cut out of and upon it, the drawing of the period being miserably inferior. The Caroline brasses are few in number and, with the exception of the Harsnett example, wretched things taken at their best. From 1650 onwards brasses cease to have any interest for the artist, and it is fortunate that there are only four to bear witness to the taste of the eighteenth century. Very little is known about the men who made a trade of brass engraving; London was the principal seat of the business and at an early date York must have ranked second only to it in importance. Peculiarities of workmanship point to the existence of regular schools at different local centres, though few of them seem to have survived to profit by the Elizabethan revival.

The distribution of brasses throughout the country opens up a wide field for speculation; it is curious that it should follow well-defined geographical lines, but the number of despoiled slabs still waiting to be catalogued,

to say nothing of those already removed and destroyed, prevents any safe conclusion being drawn from distribution. From the beginning of the reign of Edward II. down to their final disappearance in the sixteenth century, canopies are a prominent feature in brass design, and reproduce the architecture of their time. Brackets and cross-brasses also, which form distinct classes by themselves, copy the style of their particular periods. These cross-brasses suffered cruelly from Puritan malevolence, and not many have escaped the crusade against the Cross. Indeed all kinds of brasses have felt the destructive effects of the Reformation, and the work of destruction still goes on; for there are clergy and architects at the present day who take brasses from their original settings, and allow the slabs from which they have been displaced to be carried away or broken up. Surely the stones are as much entitled to respect as their accessories.

Even when they have little æsthetic value, brasses are always well worth study, for they faithfully mirror the spirit and temper of their age. Nothing could be more suggestive than the contrast between one of the early recumbent figures and a "biographical" brass of the sixteenth century showing father and mother with family complete, the living children habited in the fashion of the hour, the dead wrapped in grave-clothes. Some of the gossip Elizabethan pictures commemorating women who died in child-birth are positively repulsive in their want of reticence; and the parliamentary general in swaggering attitude, with hand on hip, looks vulgar and cuts a sorry figure when placed alongside a kneeling soldier of the Tudor period. The passage of time can be traced in the inscriptions. It is a far call from the mediæval knight to the Jacobean divine, but the simple "Gist icy" and short prayer for "merci" on the soul of Sir John Daubernoun is a standing snub to the snobbish pagan panegyric eulogising Dean Tyndall, which runs thus:—

"In presence, gouvernement, good action and in birth,
Grave, wise, courageous, noble was this earth.
The poor, ye Church, ye Colledge, say here lyes
A freinde, a Deane, a Maistre, true, good, wise."
Here the opinion of God seems to be immaterial, and Christ the master is forgotten.

The first inscription in the English language is on a plate without figure to one John Smith who died about 1370. In rude speech the sentiment expressed is the same as that found in the lines borrowed from the "Clericalis disciplina" placed on the Black Prince's tomb: a plagiarism displaying a very different sentiment will be found in an epitaph on Mr. John Bosworth, a yeoman of the seventeenth century; for sound unadulterated smugness it cannot be beaten:—

"All you that pass me by,
As you are now soe once was I,
As I am now soe shall you be,
Remember the poor and imitate me."

John Bosworth and Thomas à Kempis were evidently not on intimate terms. In his concluding pages Mr. Macklin protests against the vandalism of "restoration"; we sincerely hope it may have a good effect. He has already earned a right to champion the cause of brasses, and his thorough and comprehensive survey of them gives him a further claim to plead for their better preservation.

THE LAND OF THE PARDONS.

"Picturesque Brittany." By Mrs. Arthur G. Bell. With Illustrations by Arthur G. Bell. London: Dent. 1906. 10s. 6d. net.

THIS volume is a good specimen of the illustrated books relating to Brittany of which in recent years there has been a considerable output. Mrs. Bell in the year 1905 spent a few weeks running through Brittany, and has thought fit not only to record her trip, but to supplement her narrative with a "general account of the whole of the province". We should be sorry to say that her book is void of merit. The style is pleasant; there is in it a good deal of guide-book information. The author has a keen eye for

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costumes, is really interested in Pardons, and in the religious controversy that now divides France she is on the right side. Mr. Bell also has embellished her pages with some pretty illustrations. The ordinary British tourist who knows nothing of the Armorican land and who meditates a descent on its shores may with advantage read the volume. Still the more educated reader will find in these pages as in most other English books that deal with Bretagne bretonnante much that will irritate him. The truth is that writers like Mrs. Bell do not possess a tithe of the information necessary to draw a real picture of Brittany. If only such place impressionists would read the essay on the old Duchy which Dean Church wrote more than fifty years ago, they would have some idea of the way to treat the subject. As it is, they sit down to write with no general knowledge of the history or literature of Brittany, far less of that other Celtic land, Wales, with which the early history of Brittany is so inseparably linked. Their authorities are modern romances like "*Le Pêcheur d'Islande*", or graceful but one-sided sketches of some phase of Breton life like M. Anatole le Braz' "*Au Pays des Pardons*". Consequently, though they often give you picturesque pieces of description, their historical presentation of the past of Brittany is misleading, while their omissions reveal their ignorance. Our present author, for instance, is profoundly ignorant of the history of the Arthurian legend, on which she writes glibly. King Arthur, she tells us, is supposed to have been of Breton birth. We should like to have the authority for this statement. No doubt it is true that Arthur's subjects migrated to Armorica and carried the story of his deeds to that land; no doubt the forest of Brocehande in Brittany figures largely in the Arthurian romance; but while Wales, Cornwall and Strathclyde can all claim to have been the hero's birthplace, Brittany can make out no claim. How little the author knows on this subject may be gauged from the fact that she states that Arthur makes his first appearance in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Chronicle*. Of course Nennius and the Welsh triads had told of the Pendragon's fame centuries before Geoffrey published his lying history.

Mrs. Bell seems also to have the most rudimentary ideas of Breton history. She speaks of the "deputies" sitting in the hall of the "*Parlement*" at Rennes, a proof that she has confused the *Parlement* of Brittany, which was a Law Court, with the "*estates*" of the Duchy, which may be described as a *Parliament*. Now for omissions. We have an account of *Dol*; but not a word on the famous battle in the Vendean War fought under its walls. Similarly with *Quiberon*. There is indeed something said about the tragedy of the émigrés on its rocky shore; but nothing to show that the author knew of the unfortunate part played in the miserable affair by the British Government. Similarly with *Chateaubriand*. She writes of him in a way to suggest the idea that he knows nothing of the melancholy boyhood that he spent on the shores of *S. Malo*. On *Madame de Sévigné*, whose *château des Rochers* she visited, she is interesting. When she knows as much about Breton worthies generally as she does of the *châtelaine* of the *château des Rochers*, she will be in a position to write a good book on Brittany.

"EGOISTICAL RELIGIOSITY"—THE RELIGION OF A DANISH PROFESSOR.

"*The Philosophy of Religion.*" By Dr. Harald Høffding, Professor in the University of Copenhagen. London: Macmillan. 1906. 12s. net.

ACCORDING to Professor Høffding the essence of religion consists in belief in the permanence of value. Value denotes the property possessed by a thing of conferring satisfaction. As to what confers satisfaction, different religions differ very widely indeed: but they concur in the belief that what for them invests life with highest value is permanent beyond the limits of experience. No doubt, as the author acknowledges, all religions instinctively identify the valuable with the real, but he assures us that "the confusion of particular definite values with eternal values is irreligious". The "egoistic form of religiosity", which considers its own

immortality essential to give existence a meaning, is scolded and sent away with the stinging assurance that "of the relation of the individual to the great kingdom of values we can form no clear idea". Even the fundamental axiom of all positive religion, the existence and personality of God, is consistently with this theory affirmed to form no part of the essence of religion. Behold us then reduced to pure subjectivity.

Upon this forlorn and meagre conception we would offer the following criticisms. Professor Høffding, endeavouring to define religion from an element common to all its forms, makes the assumption that all its forms will express its spirit, and that it can be explained from its first beginnings. But this assumption is incorrect. A phenomenon cannot be explained from its rudiments, but only by what it ultimately becomes. Just as a man cannot be explained by the embryo or the infant, but only as matured in all his faculties, so religion is not definable by its elements but by its ultimate and most highly developed issue. It is no real paradox to say that forms of religion may omit its essential spirit. They may be too rudimentary to do it justice. A definition obtained from the elements common to all religions must necessarily correspond more closely with the lowest than with the highest shape religion can assume.

The definition of religion is indeed proverbially difficult; but Professor Høffding has confined his explanation entirely to the subjective side. As a complete account of the essence of religion he offers a psychological analysis. Now religion is much too complex and many-sided a phenomenon to be adequately explained in its subjective aspect.

Max Müller considers the perception of the infinite, whether in Nature, man or self, as inseparable from a definition of religion. Hence religions are distributed as physical, anthropological, psychological or theosophic. Here at any rate is an objective side. "All religion", says Dr. Caird, "involves a conscious relation to a Being called God" ("*Evolution of Religion*", i. 61). All rational life is circumscribed by three ideas, the idea of the object, the idea of the self, and the idea of the unity presupposed in the difference between them. The idea of God therefore, even if at first it mean no more than an absolute principle of unity, is the ultimate principle of rational existence, religion included. No doubt the conception may often have been crude, implicit, unformed. But developed religion requires a personal relationship, and is meaningless without the existence of a corresponding objective Reality. Accordingly a recent lecturer on the philosophy of religion offers the following as a provisional definition: "Religion is man's appropriation of God's revelation of Himself" (Storr, "*Development and Divine Purpose*"). This at any rate recognises the co-existence of various aspects—an objective as well as a subjective side in the essence of religion. We think it therefore distinctly unfortunate that Professor James when introducing Høffding's "*Problems of Philosophy*" to the English reader should have called our author's conception of religion "one of his best strokes", on the ground that it "covers more facts in the concrete history of human religion than any other definition with which I am acquainted". It does this only by its exceedingly rudimentary and attenuated character and by exclusive attention to subjective considerations.

Then again it is, to say the least, singularly unfortunate for a writer on the philosophy of religion that the boundless extension of the material universe should so powerfully affect his imagination that personality and moral ideals seem totally eclipsed thereby. He speaks of "the infinite horizon which the material world has gained, in comparison with which the spiritual world now seems so limited. How can we still", he asks, "hold fast to the conviction that spiritual values are the highest in existence, round which all else turns?"

But this objection assumes that the supreme standard of value is extension; that the highest Being can be expressed in terms of space. Now manifestly this is an assumption. Whereas Kant, deeply stirred by two realities, the starry heavens above him and the moral law within, could ascribe priority to the latter, space and the material world loom so large for Professor

Höfding that he shows no adequate appreciation of the significance of the moral universe. His discussion is marred by singular absence of that moral insight which constitutes the peculiar grandeur of Kant. Nothing illustrates this more conclusively than his assertion that "the most important of all proofs of the existence of God" is the cosmological. It may be so where imagination, overpowered by limitless space, can find no superiority in personality and moral ideas. Assuredly it is so nowhere else. It may perhaps be argued that to affirm the superiority of mind and morals over material extension is just as much an assumption as the other. But it is an assumption without which life becomes impossible.

Moreover Professor Höfding himself elsewhere reminds us that "the properties and destinations which we attribute to the Object always belong to it only in relation to a Subject, and indeed, upon closer consideration, to a Subject of a certain peculiar constitution" ("The Problems of Philosophy", p. 112). If that be correct, it is difficult to see why the Subject upon whom the Object itself depends for its properties and attributes should be considered relatively insignificant. What is certain is that Space, however much it may affect imagination, is meaningless without the Subject who realises it. Yet to infer from the boundlessness of the material world the transitoriness of the spiritual is to postulate permanent reality for the Object thought, apart from the thinking Subject who makes this report about it. It is to ignore the relativity of the two. The mind's very assertion of its own insignificance confronting space implies its greatness. For it is caught in the act of creating standards of value, and paradoxically implying possession of that very superiority which in words it denies. But this is an abasement inseparable from exaltation.

Professor Höfding is at his very worst in his criticisms on special doctrines of religion. When he informs us that "the evangelical exhortation, 'take no thought for the morrow', can be applied with far greater justification to the life after death than to our attitude towards the actual morrow of this earthly life", we scarcely know which amazes us most, the want of taste, the unscholarly disregard of the original significance, or the brutal indifference to human yearnings after immortality. A first qualification for a writer on the philosophy of religion is surely sympathetic reverence for the convictions of mankind. And by a curious inconsistency the writer recognises in one place that religion may "possibly" be of the greatest importance as a motive for action. He apparently thinks that the proper motives for action are family feeling, friendship and patriotism. But he admits that "where religious motives are present their presence must sometimes be recognised. Possibly they could not be replaced by any other motives, and attempts to destroy them might result in replacing strength and harmony by uncertainty and weakness. Every man must be taken as he stands. . . ." Accordingly the critic is warned, "Let him beware above all things lest he check the forces which have hitherto been at work, for he may not find it so easy to supply others in their place. Only too often has criticism deprived men of the capacity and the courage to dare, to endure and to suffer. Religious motives which enable this capacity and this courage to develop have in this their justification and provide in this their own verification." And yet we have just found the author engaged in neutralising religious motives and ascribing the desire for immortality to egoistical religiosity. It is difficult to reconcile this with his edifying warning against destroying convictions which might result in replacing strength and harmony by uncertainty and weakness.

Then again Professor Höfding asserts that "the orthodox doctrine of the Atonement demands a bloody sacrifice in order to melt God's wrath". We are constrained to ask, in what portion of modern Christendom does the writer suppose that this is held? Imagine this as taught in Oxford of to-day! Is Moberly or McLeod Campbell on the Atonement unknown in Copenhagen? Is there a single cultured centre of religious instruction where this theory is being taught? It would be easy to name twelve to twenty distinguished writers on this doctrine during the last fifty years not one of whom would

accept it. It would be hard to find one who does. To say that the love of the Father was the cause of the Atonement and not its consequence is a commonplace of all modern theological schools. Professor Höfding has, of course, no difficulty in demolishing the erection he has made. The pathetic feature is that he thinks he has demolished orthodox Christianity. It is only possible to write as he has done either by ignoring or living apart from the whole current of the best modern literature on the subject.

We do not think that Professor Höfding possesses the necessary qualifications to write a philosophy of religion. He is a psychologist. He is distinguished in philosophy. But it needs more than this and other gifts than this to write on Christianity. And neither the sympathy nor the theological learning requisite is found in Dr. Höfding's book.

LITTLE ARTHUR'S "DANTE AND HIS ITALY".

"Dante and His Italy." By Lonsdale Ragg. London: Methuen. 1907. 7s. 6d. net.

THE primary purpose of this volume, the author tells us, "is to present a vivid picture of life in Italy in Dante's day, based, as far as possible, upon original authorities." He goes on to tell us, however, that "the history and literature of the period . . . are only treated in such a way as to supply what is necessary for the purposes of the general reader". This latter statement, differing, as it seems to do, from the intention set forth in the first sentence, has been excellently fulfilled, and there might have been almost no fault to find with the book if it had been content thus to be a sort of "Little Arthur's Dante and his Italy"; but the "primary purpose" of the volume and the further aspiration that it may be "of occasional service even to the full-grown Dantist" raise the issue to a level where criticism is obviously in place. From the point of view, then, of any student of Dante Mr. Ragg appears to us to have trusted all through his book not to the "original authorities", but to second-hand authorities of the first rank, who maybe have often served as pointers to sources which the author has only sought out for some particular purpose. The generous thanks he gives to so many scholars at the end of his introduction confirms us in a belief which had first come to us from a certain superficiality that continually makes itself felt in his pages and not least in his notes. Thus on p. 14 he speaks of Ptolemy of Lucca and quotes from him. Who was Ptolemy of Lucca and where are his writings published? Some of us may know, but certainly the general reader does not, and it has even occurred to us that Mr. Ragg does not know either. If he knows the "Documenti di Istoria Italiana"—the reference is tom. vi., p. 102—why does he not refer us to them? But his bibliography, which includes more than one book which should not have found a place, omits very many that should have been mentioned. At least the following ought to have been read and known: I. del Lungo, "Da Bonifazio viii. ad Arrigo vii. Pagine di storia Fiorentina per la vita di Dante" (Milano, 1899); the two volumes of "Conferenze tenute a cura del Comitato Milanese della Società Dantesca Italiana" (Milano, 1898, 1901) viz. (i) "Con Dante e per Dante" (ii) "Arte, Scienza e Fede ai Giorni di Dante." It is curious too that Frati "La Vita privata di Bologna" is cited and no other "Vita Privata". Mr. Ragg ought also to have read Tamassia's excellent "Vita di Popolo" in the above-mentioned "Arte, Scienza e Fede, &c.", and Zdekauer's "La Vita Privata dei Senesi nel Duecento"; L. T. Belgrano "Della Vita Privata dei Genovesi"; and William Heywood's "Ensamble of Fra Filippo" (Siena, Torrini). This last, besides being useful in half-a-dozen places, would have been especially valuable to him in Chapter V. Siena is too much ignored; surely Bartolomeo Aquarone's well-known "Dante in Siena" should have found a place in the bibliography.

Mr. Ragg is not always happy in his choice between authority and authority, another sign of the super-

ficiency of his knowledge. To give an English example, he prefers (note 4 page 185) to use a mere allusion in Edmund Gardner's "Story of Siena &c.", to referring us to a fine paragraph in Langton Douglas' "History of Siena", or best of all to a splendid page in William Heywood's "Palio and Ponte" (Methuen, 1905, page 189).

The Index of References to Dante's works which forms an appendix to Mr. Ragg's already too long volume is very imperfect. We have examined the first twenty-five pages of his book and find the following for addition: *Inferno* xviii. 28-33—13 n. *Paradiso* xix. 139—8 n.; vii. 132—9; xv. 134—25. If the omissions continue at the same rate a page of addenda is needed.

Many of Mr. Ragg's statements have that air of generalisation which belongs to ideas absorbed at second-hand. He needs a course of reading, and above all a study of statutes and documents. If he would study thoroughly the statutes of any one commune before he writes again he would do better work; not better perhaps for the "general reader", and certainly not for his pocket, but better for the student, to whom he tells us he hopes to be useful.

THE FAMILY PAST AND FUTURE.

"The Family: an Ethnographical and Historical Outline, with Descriptive Notes, Planned as a Text-book for the Use of College Lecturers and of Directors of Home-reading Clubs." By Elsie Clews Parsons. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. 12s. 6d. net.

SOCIOLOGY is still a science in the making, and many would consider that the time has not yet arrived for it to be introduced into a junior college curriculum; but Mrs. Parsons is convinced that this should be done, and claims that "the family is, for several reasons, a particularly well-chosen subject for the elementary student of society". The comparative study of the family is a branch of sociology which contains many pitfalls and much that, in this country, would be deemed unsuitable for the immature consideration of youths and maidens from the ages of seventeen to twenty-one. "General unwillingness to learn the story of social origins and developments, particularly those of sexual and familial relations, is the mental attitude of the average person. . . . There is some truth in the warning that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. In most cases, however, the rejoinder is 'Increase the knowledge'." Judging from the scope of the book and the method of instruction recommended, the author imposes no bounds to the subjects to be studied by these young people, and it is on this point that she is most open to adverse criticism. It is one thing to teach growing boys and girls the elements of sociology, and to indicate some of the phases of social evolution, but it is quite another matter to allow unformed minds to range at will over anthropological literature. The present book with its guide to ethnological sources is very suitable for honours students or post-graduate work, but we would suggest to Mrs. Parsons that she should write quite a different class of book for the students about whom she is anxious. The reply may be that this book is intended only for teachers and not for students; but it is an essential part of her scheme of education that the latter should consult the authorities, and it is doubtful whether many parents would approve of this. Mrs. Parsons appears rather sanguine when she says, "perhaps this text-book will prove a useful guide for the intelligent mothers who single-handed undertake the responsibility of fitting their daughters for useful and joyous womanhood".

The book consists of fifteen lectures, which cover adequately the various aspects of the subject, with the exception of the history of theory, which is wisely omitted. These lectures, or rather outlines, consist of well-selected and carefully-arranged enumerations of the sociological facts bearing upon the family; in fact they are nearly exhaustive. Frequently attention is drawn to the omissions or imperfect observations of field ethnographers, and allusion is made to the undoubted fact

that "ethnography would profit through the work of women students". In dealing with the "individual totem", it should have been stated how this guardian spirit differs fundamentally from a true totem. In the section of the matriarchate the term matronymy is persistently used for metronymy. Perhaps rather too much emphasis is placed upon the matriarchate, as the mother never has the position in a matrilineal community that a father has in even incipient patriarchy. The most useful terminology of types of marriage is that adopted by N. W. Thomas in his "Kinship Organisations and Group Marriage in Australia". We are told that "phallic worship is in its influence upon the family the most important of the forms of nature-worship which always co-exist with ancestor worship". In the first place this seems to be rather too broad a generalisation; and in the second, may not the prevalence of phallic "worship" be greatly exaggerated by many authors? Surely in most cases it is merely symbolic magic.

Attached to each lecture are four sets of notes. Notes A contain classified references to the discussion of the subjects alluded to in the lecture outlines, while Notes B contain brief summaries of theories which bear on these subjects. This is a useful feature, as it is undesirable in a lecture to give many conflicting views; yet, at the same time, the student should be made aware of their existence. It is claimed that these notes will be of use in assigning special tasks to the student who is exceptionally qualified to work in the field of controversy. Notes C are further suggestions for original research by the advanced student. Notes D contain carefully compiled and condensed illustrative data that can be utilised by the instructor. "Such facts are too frequently stated in such a scattered way that they merely serve to bewilder the reader. The order observed in tabulating both groups and facts is that which will best illustrate the topical treatment."

In the first fourteen lectures no explicit reference is made to the ethical bearing of the facts discussed, as it was considered important that these facts should be clearly understood before an attempt was made to interpret them from an ethical standpoint. For, as Mrs. Parsons truly observes, "an ethical interpretation of half-known facts may, and only too frequently does, lead to conclusions that are not only scientifically false, but morally disastrous". Some of the subjects here dealt with are the duties of parents to their future offspring through their own education and their choice of a suitable spouse—in other words, the eugenics of Galton. On which subject the author says: "In view of the necessity of conjugal reciprocity of rights and duties for personal development and of mutual affection and respect for enduring monogamy, sexual choice becomes a very important matter, a matter needing mature judgment and therefore preclusive of very early marriage. . . . Hitherto in almost all societies late marriage has either been accompanied by a lack of chastity before marriage on the part of the youth of both sexes or, where female chastity is valued, by the lack of chastity on the part of the males with the growth of a prostitute class. Now it is unnecessary to more than point out that modern democracy is as incompatible with prostitution as with slavery. . . . We have therefore, given late marriage and the passing of prostitution, two alternatives, the requiring of absolute chastity of both sexes until marriage or the toleration of freedom of sexual intercourse on the part of the unmarried of both sexes before marriage, i.e. before the birth of offspring. . . . It would therefore seem well from this point of view to encourage early trial marriage, the relation to be entered into with a view to permanency, but with the privilege of breaking if it proved unsuccessful and in the absence of offspring without suffering any great degree of public condemnation." Such is the logical conclusion to which the author is driven, and she acknowledges that "the conditions to be considered in any attempt to answer the question that thus arises are exceedingly complex". Mrs. Parsons states a few of these conditions, but her treatment even of these is far too cursory and many are left unnoticed. One cannot help feeling that the book would have gained in value if this last chapter had been omitted; but if the author felt

the need to deliver herself of this message, it should have been relegated to another volume in which the matter could have received that more thorough treatment which its seriousness demands. Whatever may be the criticism to which her conclusions are subjected, no one can object to the tone of the book or doubt the courage and transparent honesty of the writer.

NOVELS.

"Needles and Pins." By J. Huntly McCarthy. London: Hurst and Blackett. 6s.

There is nothing but the name of the "pouvre petit escollier" in the François Villon of Mr. McCarthy. If he clothes him with the shining qualities of the conventional hero, he completely denudes him of his true brilliance. He is simply a cheerful, pleasant young man of Bohemian habits, occasionally depressed with the shamefaced memory of past rakishness, and gifted with a turn for the making of pretty commonplace verses of a kind that assuredly never came from the pen of him who wrote the "Ballade of Grosse Margot". But only by ignoring historical evidence can a hero be made of one who by his own description was

rez; chef, barbe, sourcil,
comme ung navet qu'on ree et pelle,

or a likely love story be built on his one reference to Katharine of Vaucelles,

J'en fuz batu, comme à ru telles,
Tout nud, jà ne le quiers celer.
Qui me fait mascher ces groiselles,
Fors Katherine de Vauselles?

There is as much likeness between the Villon of fact and the Villon of Mr. McCarthy, as between the lusty ballade with the refrain "Et c'est la fin pourquoy sommes ensemble" and the tame discreet little version which the reformed rake of "Needles and Pins" offers the proud Katherine. Rabelais says "Maistre François Villon, sus ses vieux jours, se retira à Saint-Maixent en Poitou. . . . entreprit faire jouer la Passion en gestes et langage Poictevin". Mr. McCarthy gives us the picture of a talented minor poet, who has married money, settling down to a country life and the charge of a fine property, but somewhat harassed in his new prosperity by a haughty wife, and the snubs of the county people who refuse to call, and avoid him after church.

"Windover Tales." By Halliwell Sutcliffe. London: Smith, Elder. 6s.

The art of the short-story writer is something different from that of the novelist: different as the art of the cameo-cutter from that of the sculptor, and it is not frequently that we have a writer who is equally good at both. Mr. Halliwell Sutcliffe can write romances of gloomy moors and of dark deeds done thereon, of strong lawless men and their vigorous warings and wooings, he can also strike a pleasant note of quiet comedy. In this volume of short tales, or of one longish and eight short ones, he touches on varied themes in varied manners and the result is not altogether satisfactory. A collection of short stories should be marked by some unity of treatment, or by the strong personality of their author, to make any firm impression upon us; the mere gathering together of various stories of diverse kinds because they were written by a single pen gives nothing more satisfactory than an ordinary magazine of short stories. In this volume Mr. Sutcliffe has given us such a collection of fictions in brief which have already done duty in journals or magazines. The stories are good—of their kind—but the kind is not satisfying.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"Twentieth Century Impressions of Ceylon." Durban: Lloyds Greater Britain Publishing Company, Limited. London: The Gresham Press. 1907. £3 3s.

We commend the desire of the publishers to give in attractive form full and trustworthy information concerning the colonies and dependencies of the British Empire, but we

can hardly imagine that this gorgeous, unwieldy and expensive volume will do much to further that end. It has been compiled, no doubt, at immense cost both of time and money, but after we have worked steadily through its 862 quarto pages we are left wondering whether it is intended for the scholar, the traveller or the business man. In part it is history and physical geography treated by experts; in part a description of the life and work of the present carried to a point which suggests that the work is after all only a glorified trade directory. A long series of accounts of factories, shops, rubber, tea and cocoa estates, hotels, &c., carefully illustrated with portraits of managers and proprietors, was not perhaps to be looked for in a work which at first sight seemed to be intended for the student's reference library. However, the work has the Governor's patronage, and so far as it deals with history, the Constitution, the flora and fauna, customs, native arts and British achievements it is useful, though its value is discounted by its bulk and weight.

"A History of William Paterson and the Darien Company." By J. S. Barbour. Edinburgh and London: Blackwood. 1907. 6s. net.

Mr. Barbour has compiled an interesting account of the man who founded the Bank of England and projected the ill-fated Darien enterprise. Paterson was a Scot, full of great ideas, the realisation of which brought him no reward. Bad luck dogged his steps. He had to throw up his directorship of the Bank within a year of its foundation, owing to disagreement on a question of policy, and the Darien scheme went to pieces in the very hour when it was believed that its success was assured. The volume contains several appendices which are worth the careful study of all who are attracted by the romantic story of trade, discovery and colonisation at the end of the seventeenth century, together with a long list of the persons, "residents in Scotland," who subscribed to the company no less a sum than £400,000. In its way the book is a curiosity.

"The Naval Annual." Edited by T. A. Brassey. Portsmouth: Griffin and Co. 1907. 12s. 6d. net.

The spirit of reform has laid hold of the Annual. It is divided into three sections instead of four, and the Ordnance Tables are now included in Part II. The chapters on Guns and Armour, which used to form what was by no means the least important portion of the book, have disappeared, and the reduction made in price is scarcely sufficient compensation for the loss of them. After passing the British and foreign navies under review, the editor is of opinion that next year the vote for new construction must be increased, otherwise at the end of 1908 we shall be barely up to the two-power standard. A comparison of strengths shows the United States to be the second naval power in the world, and this fact it may be presumed has been taken into account when recommending that the two-power standard should be taken to mean the "assumed combination of the two most powerful fleets existing at any time"—with a margin over, ought to have been added to the definition given. No hard and fast rules can be drawn for the classification of battleships, therefore it appears to us a mistake

(Continued on page 692.)

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to try to rate them. This year the "Barfleur" and "Centurion" have been restored to their positions in the first class, and the result is confusing, for there is nothing in the tables to suggest the precise value attached to foreign vessels in the category of battleships. The abbreviation "P." placed against British protected cruising ships might also be dropped with advantage as the use of it seems to be purely arbitrary. The miscellaneous articles cover a wide field, and though not always free from bias well repay reading. There are interesting accounts of the British, French, and Italian manoeuvres and an able defence of the Blue Water school made by Mr. Leyland; but perhaps the chapter least open to criticism is the one by Commander Robinson, who, taking "The Laws of the Navy" for his text, has managed to squeeze much information within a small compass.

LAW BOOKS.

"Trade Union Law." By Herman Cohen. Second Edition. London: Sweet and Maxwell. 1907. 6s. net.

The revolution made in trade-union law by the Act of 1906 has, amongst other effects, had that of altering greatly the form of this well-known work. When Mr. Howell wrote the preface to the first edition the Taff Vale controversy was still pending. Now it has been concluded by the Trades Dispute Act 1906, and with it disappear all the historical references which were relevant in 1901 but are so no longer. Nor does the Act with its necessary commentary take up much space. It is a cruel Act for lawyers and text-book writers. There is nothing to be made of it except to raise a barren academic discussion as to whether an action for injunction can still be brought against a trade union to restrain torts for which they cannot be sued in damages; or for what torts the trustees of a union may or may not be sued. The book retains in other departments of trade-union law not affected by the Act of 1906 the merits for which it was distinguished in its first edition.

"The Law Relating to Compensation for Injuries to Workmen." By C. M. Knowles. London: Stevens and Sons. 1907. 6s. net.

Mr. Knowles' book is certainly one of the best that has been produced on the new Workmen's Compensation Act. On all matters where the decisions illustrate the sections in the present Act the book is complete. On the new matters such as the extension of the Act to new classes of workmen and the extension of compensation to industrial diseases, the treatment is thoroughly satisfactory. In this sense it is a complete exposition of the law clearly arranged, well and concisely written, and with all the apparatus making it an efficient guide to the practitioner and all who are interested in any respect in the working of the Act.

"Local Government Law and Legislation for 1906." By W. H. Dumsday. London: Hadden. 1907. 10s.

In its ninth year this series has proved its great utility to all who are concerned with local government administration. It is necessary to keep in touch with the constant additions to and amendments of local government law, which are greater than in any other branch of legislation; and besides these there are the elaborate orders of the Local Government Board which are constantly being issued. Text-books soon become antiquated and digests embarrassing. Thus in the present volume there are no fewer than nineteen Acts of Parliament for 1906 annotated and referred to previous Acts; a hundred and seventy cases decided by the Courts, and a hundred and sixty-eight pages of circulars and orders issued by the Local Government Board; and besides this there is a table of eighty Bills in Parliament which did not become law, information as to the objects and scope and progress of all these being given. The attention of members of Parliament, lawyers and officers of local authorities ought to be directed to this series.

"Everest and Strode's Law of Estoppel." Second Edition. By Lancelot Feilding Everest. London: Stevens and Sons. 1907. 25s.

Since 1884 the "excellent learning of estoppel" has had a treatise devoted to it of acknowledged ability, which has been accepted by lawyers as a standard authority. In 1884 no book existed on the subject, though the materials were abundant. Yet Lord Coke had treated of it several centuries ago. He made the first scientific division of it. He hit upon the "eternal form", and it remained for Messrs. Everest and Strode in 1884 to clothe this form in the immensely more extensive and varied matter which had grown up since Lord Coke wrote. It has continued growing during the last twenty-three years; and this second edition embodies all the increase up to date. Mr. Everest is now, however, its sole editor, and Mr. Strode has taken no part in its preparation. It is interesting to note how under modern conditions estoppel by conduct grows in importance. The same may be said of the development of estoppel through the decisions as to the effects of foreign judgments. One of Mr. Everest's best chapters is

on Foreign Judgments in Rem, in which, amongst other things, he treats of divorces granted by foreign courts in such circumstances as *Le Mesurier v. Le Mesurier* in 1895, which introduced so considerable a modification into English law.

"Particulars and Conditions of Sale." Third Edition. By William Frederick Webster. London: Stevens and Sons. 1907. 25s.

This is an eminently practical book. It is law in its severest form; and we can imagine it being placed on Charles Lamb's list of biblia abiblia. But when a solicitor has to prepare particulars and conditions of sale and to consider questions of title and all the many facts which have to be taken into account on a sale of real property his only concern is to have a book to which he can turn for short, lucid statements giving the result of all the decided points. He finds everything he desires in Webster, as the third edition of the book proves. In short it is a book which every solicitor doing conveyancing business must be using at every turn. It is so well known that it is only necessary to record the fact that it is brought down to date by all the reported cases being included to the end of 1906 and even several unreported cases in 1907. The appendix of precedents has been omitted; but the usual collections of precedents are in every solicitor's library, and at the end of a text-book they are only an encumbrance.

"Practical Hints on Pleading." By Alexander Anderson Eustace. London: Stevens and Sons. 1907. 5s.

The author of this little book describes it as intended for the use of young practitioners at the Bar, young solicitors, and students of both branches. To whichever class the reader may belong he is assumed to be just entering on the art of legal warfare. If he has begun to read in a barrister's chambers or to attend lectures on pleading he will in the course of a few hours' reading find many hints and suggestions which will save him from elementary errors or from slovenly and inartistic drafting, and his teacher some unnecessary trouble. But the book is hardly formal enough to be considered even an introduction to the principles of pleading; and in actual work reference would have to be made to other guides. After trying his hand at a few sets of pleadings the novice would be interested and amused with Mr. Eustace's anticipations of his 'prentice drafting.

For this Week's Books see page 694.

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THE sixty-eighth annual general meeting of the proprietors of the General Life Assurance Company was held on Wednesday, at the chief office, 103 Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Alfred James Shephard occupying the chair.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last annual general meeting were confirmed.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and the approval of the appended accounts, said he was fortunate this year in knowing that he had a very favourable report to present, and consequently he anticipated that his position that day would be an extremely pleasurable one. They would see from the accounts that the new policies which had been accepted this year amounted to no less a sum than £533,327. This was an increase over the new business of last year of £121,631. The new premiums received amounted to £19,017 13s. 9d., which was an increase over the amount received in the preceding year of £3,395. There was also the notable fact that the net premium income for the year showed a substantial increase. This large increase of business was not in any way due to the fact that the board had accepted any unusual risks. The policy of the directors in this respect had been exactly the same as in former years—namely, to proceed with caution, and not to accept bad lives at all, and doubtful lives only when accompanied by larger premiums. The increase was partly due to the opening of some new agencies, but mainly to the fact that their agents generally had actively and successfully worked in the interests of the Company. There was no increase in the annuity business of the Company. He mentioned last year that this arose from the fact that the directors had not found on experience that there was much, if any, profit to be derived from granting annuities, and they were not pressing this branch of their business. He pointed out that this year closes the quinquennium, and that persons who take out policies this year will participate in the current quinquennial bonus.

Lord Valentia, C.B., M.V.O., M.P., having seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, the Chairman further moved: "That a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum be declared on the paid-up capital of the Company, payable in two half-yearly instalments, to the proprietors whose names shall stand on the share register at June 30 and December 31, 1907."

The Hon. R. C. Grosvenor said no doubt the shareholders would give the resolution, which he seconded, a cordial reception.

The proposition having been duly carried, Sir John Jardine, K.C.I.E., M.P., moved: "That Lord Arthur Cecil, Mr. Robert Henry Scott, F.R.S., D.Sc., and Mr. William Muller be re-elected directors."

Mr. B. J. Scott had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Lord Arthur Cecil returned thanks on behalf of his co-directors and himself.

Mr. H. J. Bracey proposed: "That this court tenders its best thanks to the Chairman and directors of the Company and also to the Secretary and staff for the ability with which they have managed its affairs during the past year." He was confident that the resolution would commend itself very strongly to the whole meeting.

Mr. D. C. Rutherford seconded the resolution.

The proposal having been carried unanimously, Mr. T. McKinnon Wood, M.P., returned thanks on behalf of the board, the vote being further acknowledged by the Secretary (Mr. John Robert Freeman).

CALLENDER'S CABLE.

THE eleventh annual general meeting of the shareholders in the Callender's Cable and Construction Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, E.C., Mr. Heary Drake (Chairman of the Company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. E. Harrison) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that when he addressed the shareholders last year he stated he had to submit the accounts and balance-sheet of the most prosperous year the Company had ever had; but he was happy to state that the accounts now submitted showed an advance even on the accounts of that year, amounting in all to about £2,000. He then proceeded to deal exhaustively with the figures in the balance-sheet, comparing them with those of the previous year, and stated that nearly every item showed an increase. After deducting debenture interest and Preference dividends, the appropriation for depreciation of buildings, plant, and machinery, and the appropriation for depreciation of office furniture, there remained a balance of £8,972, which they proposed to deal with in the following manner:—By the payment of a dividend on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, clear of income-tax, being 10s. per share, whereof 5s. was paid on November 1, 1906, and 5s. will be paid on May 31, 1907, which amounted to £17,500; by the payment of a bonus of 5s. per share, to be paid also on May 31, 1907, £3,750; and by carrying forward to next year's account £56,722, as against £38,921 carried forward in the previous balance-sheet. He thought that the shareholders would agree that that was a very satisfactory showing.

Mr. C. H. McEuen seconded the motion.

Mr. T. O. Callender (the managing director) said the year that had passed had been a very satisfactory one; but none the less it had been an exceedingly trying one to the management and the directors. They had had great difficulties in maintaining their position, from various causes. Most of these were well known to every person engaged in any description of manufacturing. No money was available for new enterprises, and he thought that the difficulty with regard to obtaining money for enterprises still continued, and was even worse than it was last year. Added to that came the proposed legislation with regard to electric supply both in London and elsewhere, and that had considerably reduced the disposition of electric undertakers to extend or to go into new enterprises. On the top of that they had the difficulty with regard to the price of copper. In the early part of the year the value of copper was about £85 per ton; but at the end of July last it began to rise, and continued to do so until it reached £115 per ton. They could imagine that it was not a bed of roses to the directors to carry on a business, or to secure contracts, when the main article in which they were dealing had risen no less than £30, or nearly 50 per cent. In spite of all that they had not done badly. There were few parts of the world where cables were likely to be used in which this Company was not represented in a satisfactory manner. Wherever they were doing work business was extending, and this was especially the case in India, where they had a very fine business opening up.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Sir J. Fortescue Flannery, the dividends and bonus recommended on the Ordinary shares were declared.

An extraordinary general meeting was subsequently held, when a resolution was passed increasing the remuneration of the directors by the sum of £1,200 a year.

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This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The List will open on Saturday, 1st June, 1907, and close on or before Wednesday, 5th June, 1907.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

SHARE CAPITAL.

5 per cent. First Preference Stock, issued and fully paid	£1,200,000
5 per cent. Second Preference Stock, issued and fully paid	1,000,000
Ordinary Stock, issued and fully paid	4,000,000
100,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each, issued and fully paid	1,000,000
100,000 Ordinary Shares of £10 each, issued (£7 paid)	1,000,000
	£8,200,000

DEBENTURE CAPITAL.

4 per cent. First Debenture Stock, issued	£2,755,000
4 per cent. Second Debenture Stock, issued	1,945,000
5 per cent. Debenture Stock, issued	1,250,000
	£5,950,000

In addition to which further amounts of First and Second Debenture Stock have been sanctioned, but not issued, at the rate of £1,700 and £1,300 respectively per mile of new line in course of construction, but not exceeding £170,000 First and £130,000 Second Debenture Stock.

ISSUE OF £1,000,000 FOUR-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED DEBENTURE STOCK.

Secured by a Trust Deed reserving to the Company the right to create further Debenture Stock, carrying interest at 4½ per cent. per annum and ranking in all respects *pari passu* with the above £1,000,000 Debenture Stock, for £4,000,000, and a further amount at the rate of £4,000 per mile of additional line hereafter acquired by the Company or of new line for the time being constructed or in course of construction, or about to be constructed (including the extra track taken at £4,000 a mile where existing lines are doubled) in excess of the mileage belonging to the Company now in operation, and also for such a further amount as shall be sufficient to redeem prior issues to an amount not exceeding the par value of the Stock for the time being redeemed and the amount of any premium payable on redemption under the terms of the issue thereof.

At 96 per cent., payable as follows:—

£5 on Application.
30 " Allotment.
20 " 15th July, 1907.
20 " 15th August, 1907.
21 " 14th September, 1907.

Total £96 per £100 Stock.

Script will be issued to be exchanged for Debenture Stock Certificates on completion of all the payments, the registered Debenture Stock being transferable in amounts not involving a fraction of £1.

The interest is payable by warrant to the Registered Holders of the Stock on 1st January and 1st July in each year.

The first payment of Interest will be made on 1st January, 1908, and will be calculated upon the instalments as due.

Payment in full on Allotment and on the Instalment dates can be made under discount at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, have authorised THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED, and MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED, as Bankers of the Company, to receive applications for £1,000,000 4½ per cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock of the Company.

The whole or any part of this Stock is redeemable at any time at the Company's option after 30th June, 1908, at 110 per cent., on six calendar months' notice to the Stockholders. This stock is secured by a charge upon the undertaking of the Company, subject to the existing issues, under a Trust Deed, dated 28th May, 1907, made between the Company and the Trustees.

The Company has the right to redeem after 30th June, 1913, at par, on six months' notice, the 5 per cent. Debenture Stock, and to redeem, at any time, on six months' notice, the Second Debenture Stock at 105 per cent.

The Company owns and has in operation 870 miles of broad gauge (5ft. 6in.) railway in the Argentine Republic, extending westward from the City of Buenos Ayres to Villa Mercedes, the main line forming part of the system which is to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Seaboard of the South American Continent. Beyond the branch lines already opened to public traffic the Company has under construction or is about to construct additional branches of a length of about 450 miles.

The Company also works under Agreement the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway (430 miles open) and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway (121 miles), and has entered into an arrangement (which has been approved by the Argentine Government) for working the Argentine Great Western Railway (464 miles open), subject, however, to the sanction of General Meetings of both Companies and of Meetings of the Debenture Stockholders of the Argentine Great Western Railway Company, Limited. The Company takes over the Argentine Great Western Railway Company's working arrangement with the Argentine Transandine Railway (200 miles open), subject to the approval of the latter Company, and will thus have under its control the whole of the trans-continental line from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso in so far as it is situated in Argentine territory. The Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company is building a line 200 miles in length to connect with this Company's system, 168 miles being already open to public traffic. The completion of the remaining portion of the line is being actively proceeded with, and by August next it is anticipated that this Company will have through communication with the Port of Bahia Blanca.

The remarkable development of this Company's system since 1900 is shown by the following table:—

	1900-1901	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904	1904-1905	1905-1906
Receipts ..	£600,878	£84,267	£718,001	£959,306	£1,263,636	£1,618,365
Expenses ..	£332,405	£304,467	£347,407	£533,083	£719,111	£882,404
Profit ..	£268,473	£279,800	£370,594	£426,223	£544,525	£735,961

As compared with the corresponding period of 1905-6, the estimated receipts to the 25th instant are £1,850,246 against £1,456,635, an increase of £394,211.

The large increase in the traffic has rendered it necessary for the Company to order more Engines and Rolling Stock, and to provide additional stations and sidings. An independent access into the City of Buenos Ayres is also under construction, and land to provide the Company with adequate terminal accommodation there, both for Passenger and Goods traffic, has been secured.

The proceeds of the present issue will be applied towards meeting the amounts expended upon the construction and equipment of branch lines open to public traffic and the further equipment thereof, the supply of Engines and Rolling Stock, stone ballasting, provision of new 100 lb. rails for relaying, for facilities to meet the increasing traffic, and for the general requirements of the Railway.

Past expenditure of Capital has been abundantly justified by results, as will be seen by the statement tabulated above. Dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum have been paid on the Ordinary Stock and Shares of the Company since the year 1902-1903. The annual interest on the Company's issued Debenture Capital is £360,225, which will now be increased by £45,000.

A preference in the allotment, as regards 40 per cent. of this issue, will be given to applications from existing Shareholders and Debenture Stockholders of this Company, the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway Company, Limited.

Applications on the form accompanying this Prospectus, together with the deposit of £5 per cent., should be forwarded to the London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, 5 Princes Street, London, E.C., or to Martin's Bank, Limited, 68 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned without deduction. Should a smaller amount be allotted than applied for, the surplus paid on application will be appropriated towards the balance due on allotment. Non-payment of any instalment upon the due date will render the amount previously paid liable to forfeiture.

Application will in due course be made to obtain a Stock Exchange quotation for this issue.

Apart from the contracts made by the Company in the ordinary course of business, the following have been entered into within the two years immediately preceding the date hereof:

Contract dated 20th June, 1905, and made between the Company and the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited.

Contracts dated 24th April, 1906, and made between the Company and the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway Company, Limited.

Contract dated 16th May, 1906, and made between the Company and the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited, and the South American Light and Power Company, Limited.

Contract entered into on the 29th May, 1906, between the Argentine Government and the Company for the construction of line from Bunge to Bucharado; from Chacabuco to the Alberdi branch; and from Rawson to a point near O'Higgins.

Contract dated 4th December, 1906, and made between the Company and the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Company, Limited.

Supplemental Trust Deed dated 16th December, 1906, and made between the Company and the Trustees for the 5 per cent. Debenture Stock securing £500,000 of such Stock.

Provisional Contracts dated 23rd April, 1907, and made between the Company and the Argentine Great Western Railway Company, Limited.

Trust Deed dated 28th May, 1907, and made between the Company and the Trustees for securing the 4½ per cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock.

Contract dated the 30th May, 1907, and made between the Company and Messrs. Sheppards, Pelly, Price and Pott, for underwriting the present issue.

The above Contracts may be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors on any day while the List remains open, between the hours of 11 and 4.

15,000 Deferred Shares of £20 each and 5,000 Second Preferred Shares of £20 each were allotted as fully paid in 1888, as part of the consideration for the construction of the Railway (subsequently converted into Second Preference and Ordinary Stock).

A Brokerage at the rate of a Quarter per cent. will be paid by the Company on allotment made to the public in respect of applications bearing a Broker's stamp.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, Dashwood House, 9, New Broad Street, London, E.C.; of the Bankers; and of Messrs. Sheppards, Pelly, Price and Pott, the Brokers of the Company.

Registered Offices:
DASHWOOD HOUSE,
9, NEW BROAD STREET,
LONDON, E.C.
31st May, 1907.

Trustees for the Four-and-a-half per cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock.

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF COVENTRY.
THE RT. HON. LORD STANLEY.

Directors.

J. W. PHILIPPS, M.P. (Chairman).
T. PENN GASKELL, M. INST. C.E.
C. E. GUNTHER.
EDWARD NORMAN.
HON. ARTHUR STANLEY, M.P.
F. O. SMITHERS (Managing Director).

Bankers.

THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED, 5, Princes Street, London, E.C.
MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED, 68, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

Bankers in Argentina.

THE ANGLO SOUTH AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

Solicitors.

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP & CO., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.

Brokers.

SHEPPARDS, PELLY, PRICE & POTT, 57, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Auditors.

TURQUAND, YOUNGS & CO., 41, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

General Manager & Secretary.
J. A. GOUDGE.

Assistant-Secretary.
W. R. CRONAN.

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